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COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE OF C.A. CREATED IN MEXICO

FL230250 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2241 GMT 22 Mar 84

[By Jesus Guevara Morin]

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Committee for the Defense of Central America [Comite para la Defensa de Centro America -- CODECA] was formed here today with the main objective of using moral force to prevent, obstruct, or stop the invasion of Central America. The organization, made up of scientists, professors, clergymen, and intellectuals of various countries of the world, includes Adolfo Perez Esquivel, the Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner for 1982, and Sergio Mendez Arceo, the Cuernavaca Bishop.

It was noted that CODECA goals include the creation of a movement to report the true causes of the Central American crisis: misery and hunger. Counting on an alleged lack of information of the current generation, the Washington government, headed by Ronald Reagan, is citing the East-West conflict as the cause and reason for Central American problems, the CODECA Declaration of Principles said. However, it added, history has taught us that the United States invaded Nicaragua, Santo Domingo, Mexico, and other countries of Latin America on different occasions when this East-West confrontation did not exist and when there were no movements for communism in the continent.

The CODECA, which will follow the pacifist principles of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Columbia, Panama, and Venezuela), intends to promote an international campaign to report this genocidal policy to the press and other media.

L.A. OFFICIALS RECOMMEND OIL EXPLORATION FUND

FL241950 Bridgetown CANA in English 1502 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 24 (CANA) -- Government officials from six Latin American countries have recommended the establishment of a fund to promote the petroleum exploration in the region. A statement from the United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area said the suggestion was made at a two-day North/South roundtable held in Chile at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA).

The roundtable, which examined global energy issues and their relation to Latin America energy policies, has recommended that the fund be set up in co-operation with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other regional energy-related institutions. The session on March 1 and 2 was attended by more than 20 senior government officials from Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina.

BRIEFS

ALADI SECRETARY GENERAL INSTALLED -- Montevideo, 19 Mar (EFE) -- Juan Jose Real has been installed as the new secretary general of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). Real was unanimously elected by ALADI's Council of Ministers during a meeting in Washington last November. His term of office will be 3 years and it may be renewed for an equal period of time. [Excerpt] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1626 GMT 19 Mar 84 PY]

ALFONSIN CALLS FOR UNITY IN FACE OF CRISIS

PY232355 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2304 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Speech to the nation by President Raul Alfonsin from the balcony of Government House in Buenos Aires -- live]

[Text] [chants, shouts, applause] Argentines...[chants, slogans] I am sure... [chants] I am sure that all of you, without exception, understand or feel that we have arrived at a decisive hour for the nation and for our future.

We all know that we live in a world marked by conflicts and injustice. Political, ideological and economic confrontation between the East and the West prompts the development of offensive and defensive tactics which go to the very brink of the holocaust of mankind. There is the North-South conflict, epitomized by the actions of centers of economic power which condemn peripheral nations to ever increasing poverty. There is an international division of labor which reaffirms the serfdom to which various peoples are subjected.

There are conflicts within the centers of power that show us the discussions that take place within those centers that continue to discriminate since they make decisions -- basically aimed at affecting the developing countries -- without the participation of the developing countries. There are hegemonies and dependencies, a paralyzation of growth and unjust distribution of foodstuffs in the world that reveals a geography of hunger and the militarization of political and economic power.

There are fruitless efforts, great efforts without effective achievements, carried out by spiritual powers that undoubtedly seek to favor what is sacred to life and once again return to the path of a harmonious coexistence of the social organizations. There are discussions, discussions and confrontations within the rhetorical exchange carried out by the leftist and rightist materialists that seek to thwart the sources of the creative activity of human beings without taking into account the strength of the spirit as the basic elements for such actions.

In sum, a world in which we Argentines, together with our brothers of South America and other developing countries, [applause] are increasingly confronted by those whom, through an overwhelming indebtedness -- without realizing that this leads to the crisis of the international financial system -- are turning our economies into increasingly vulnerable and dependent economies.

And in what state does this world find we Argentines? We have just taken the first steps to pull out of an incredible crisis which we all endured, but in a most notable way, the have-not sectors of Argentina. The productive structure of the nation has been broken up through what has been called the unrestricted opening of the economy, a suicidal and irresponsible situation. [whistles, chants, shouts]

During the first years of the eighties we have not invested what had been invested during the seventies. The Argentine per capita gross domestic product is now below that of 1970. The industrial production of our country in 1983 was less than in 1971. Our regional economies have been destroyed. In many sectors tax evasion is more than 50 percent. The shortage of revenues which the provinces are facing is a threat to the federal system because the entire income of many of these provinces is not enough to pay even 10 percent of the salaries. There are extreme situations of social injustice which have led to serious school absenteeism and infant mortality.

All this means that we Argentines are facing a situation of extreme poverty in a nation which is endowed by extraordinary human resources because it has a marvelous people... [shouts, honking, applause] and, of course, noteworthy natural resources, as well. Thus, what is it that we Argentines must do? What is the challenge facing us?

We must set into motion a joint undertaking capable of changing the current status quo and giving us strength, together with our Latin American brothers, to become leading actors in the process of international decisionmaking.

We need a heroic undertaking by all of us Argentines which can be put into motion by no single sector, be it political, ideological, or social. It must be an undertaking of all Argentines that have made up their minds to make the necessary effort to make the dream of our forefathers come true. [applause, shouts, and chants] A heroic undertaking which will enable the just integration of the various regions of the country, promote basic industries, ensure energetic self-sufficiency, permit the massive incorporation of science and technology to agricultural production, stop banks and the financial system from being at the service of speculation and put them at the service of production.

We must all make an effort to increase exports, find new markets, secure food for our people and, based on social justice, propel ourselves toward a future which is awaiting us, a safe future of greatness that our offspring will see in the Republic. [applause, shouts]

We will attain this together, all together. It is necessary to overcome sterile discussions over the most sophisticated aspects of the ideologies within each one of us because these discussions sterilize political discussions. It is necessary to appeal to the good sense of the Argentine people but it is even more necessary to appeal to their moral sense and solidarity. [applause]

Due mainly to adverse international circumstances and to the lack of ideological alternatives, a dependent economic model was established in Argentina at the end of the last century which resulted in the present crisis. The Radical and Peronist parties fought against this dependent model in due time. Radicalism carried out a moral reform, incorporated immigrants and their descendents into the country's political life, achieved popular sovereignty through the vote, promoted a university reform plan, and waged a [shouts] struggle for man's dignity based on Irigoyen's principle that man is sacred to mankind. Radicalism also fought against all kinds of imperialism through a basic foreign policy which maintained the principles of legal equality between nations, self-determination of peoples, and nonintervention. [shouts, applause]

Peronism later incorporated the labor sectors to the country's political life and it strengthened the people's national struggle by raising the banners of economic freedom, social justice, and political sovereignty. [shouts] These groups carried out their own particular actions, but they were unable to thwart the previously mentioned economic structure.

These two movements were not alone in the endeavor. Various universal trends of democratic thought enriched the overall political spectrum of the nation. Argentina had the good fortune of having Christian Democrats who seek inspiration in the lofty messages of the gospel, the Old Testament, and the Pope's encyclicals which tell us about Christian humanism that can do so much good in a free society. Argentina also had the benefit of Socialist thought allied with pluralism which teaches us the need for the renewal of economic guidelines amid respect for essential freedoms. We also benefited from political Liberalism and its permanent struggle to defend the freedom of man and the state of law. [shouts, chants]

All of us together, with the exception of the partisans and the dogmatists, must make a great effort to get our nation on its feet so that they will know abroad ... [shouts, crowd roars] that we may squabble but we are not getting weaker. [applause, chants]

Throughout the years... [chants] throughout the years, in its struggle for independence first and institutional reorganization later, in the political conflicts which always left something positive behind, in the development of its customs and its culture, Argentina has been consolidating certain values which are nowadays the basis for our nation's identity. These values are few, and easy to be understood by all: a sovereign state; a just and free society; political, social, and economic democracy in keeping with the provisions of the national Constitution; individual security guaranteed by the state of law; a developed nation; and a culture whose roots are firmly planted in our land, but capable of enriching itself and accepting anything that comes from Latin America and the rest of the world. [chants]

We will struggle for these values. We are all called to defend them. I am not calling upon you Argentines, history calls upon you, future calls upon you, national honor calls upon you, and our children call upon you. [shouts, applause]

I am sure that we Argentines will stand up to our responsibilities. And whenever someone comes to us with confusing words or violent gestures seeking to divide us, let us all simply tell him: not now; now all; now together; now Argentina! [applause, chant, cheers]

DELEGATE TO VATICAN TALKS RETURNS UNEXPECTEDLY

PY231411 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1259 GMT 23 March 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (TELAM) -- Marcelo Delpech, Foreign Ministry under secretary for border issues, today returned to our country from Rome, Italy. He is a member of the Argentine delegation to the Vatican, negotiating the southern border conflict with Chile. Delpech left Rome for Buenos Aires unexpectedly, and upon his arrival at Ezeiza International Airport he was welcomed by Foreign Ministry officials. He did not make any statements.

FOREIGN MINISTER SUMS UP FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

PY231600 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0103 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has summed up the first 100 days of constitutional government in the area of foreign policy: Argentina's capacity for autonomous decision has been strengthened, and there have been decisions taken to seek solutions to some important inherited problems, such as the Beagle and Malvinas questions. He also noted Argentina's place in the Western world, especially in areas such as Latin America and the Nonaligned Movement. From this perspective Minister Caputo indicated, Argentine foreign policy seeks plurality in its political partners. Caputo made these remarks in a television program prepared by Channel 13, answering questions from expert reporters Raul Cardozo and Horacio Sola, and introduced by Sergio Villarruel.

The minister began by stating that the first objective of the foreign policy has been to present the new image of a democratic Argentina. He added that the administration did not begin by considering foreign events such as what happens beyond its borders, because foreign events, conflicts among superpowers, for instance, necessarily have an impact on domestic events.

He cited as an example the case of violence which, although internal factors made it possible or aggravated it, also had foreign causes.

Caputo stressed the fact that the first 100 days implied a substantial change as compared to years of an erratic policy, although always marked by authoritarianism.

Regarding the renewed international opinion of Argentina, he said that the government of Raul Alfonsin started from an exceptional situation, because what happened in the country called attention in such a manner that it appeared on the front pages of all newspapers as a phenomenon that not only gives hope to Latin America but to the whole world. The foreign minister stated that the rebirth of democracy in Argentina under such difficult conditions has been something welcomed by the entire international community; that is, it has been the springboard which has allowed us to begin a foreign policy under good conditions.

Referring to the country's nonaligned position, Caputo said that nonalignment means a position outside the country's borders, and stressed that Argentina is a Western country, because the West is not defined solely in terms of politics and military alliances.

In this regard, he said that if someone supposes that being a member of the Nonaligned Movement implies that Argentina ignores its own history and values, he is greatly mistaken. The Argentine foreign minister cited the dominant values that we share with the West [word indistinct], the precise meaning we give to individual freedom and democracy, but he explained that dominant values should not be confused with belonging to a specific bloc.

Caputo said that the foreign policy has dealt with three major areas. 1) Latin America, the number one priority for Argentina; 2) North America; and 3) Western Europe. He added that this does not mean that the areas exclude each other. In this regard, the foreign minister said that rapprochement is also sought with underdeveloped or developing countries which do not belong to these areas but rather to what has been generically called the Third World.

Regarding the improvement of Argentine-U.S. relations, the foreign minister expressed his conviction that the United States has the same guidelines for both foreign and domestic policy, that is, democracy, which makes it unthinkable and even contradictory for the United States to look upon authoritarian and democratic regimes in the same way. He added: We have found firm solidarity with the Argentine democratization process. Without going any further, the amendment to the foreign aid law, approved last week by the U.S. Congress, clearly emphasizes the Argentine democratization process, applauds the government measures of Dr Alfonsin, and recommends that President Reagan express this solidarity in very concrete terms in matters related to the refinancing of the foreign debt.

Caputo expressed concern at the possibility of U.S. interference in the domestic affairs of Nicaragua. stressing that Nicaragua can handle its long-term needs. In that field, he explained that the United States will find permanent interlocutors in Latin America, thus strengthening democracy. He stated that threats to strengthen democracy are not good, thus reaffirming the Argentine position of condemning all kinds of interference in the domestic affairs of Latin American states.

The Argentine foreign minister stated that at this time Latin America is experiencing intervention by the two superpowers, and that the problem is to achieve a shield of peace in this continent to prevent one or the other from finding ground for their fights in our territory.

Caputo stated that a negotiated solution in Central America must be sought, adding that [words indistinct] nor unaware of the national problem. He said that Latin America must be preserved from becoming another Vietnam, which would be a disaster for our continent and the worst thing for the security of the United States itself.

Finally, referring to the Beagle conflict, the foreign minister stressed the fact that negotiations have become more expeditious. Regarding the Malvinas issue, he said that a British answer is being awaited that mayestablish the possibility of resuming talks without giving up on the sovereignty issue.

ECONOMY MINISTER DISCARDS 'WAR ECONOMY'

PY242245 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1430 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (DYN) -- Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun has discarded the adoption of a war economy, noting that "we want to put into motion a country of peace, a country where people can work and feel content." He added: "People have to make a great effort because of the condition the country is in, but with the certainty that they will be paid and duly rewarded for their efforts." Grinspun made this statement last night before departing for Punta del Este, Uruguay, where he is to attend, beginning today, the meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank.

ALFONSIN: SOLIDARITY WITH WOUNDED CHILEAN

PY231735 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1538 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (TELAM) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin has sent a message to express his solidarity and that of the Argentine people with Chilean Christian Democratic leader Jorge Lavanderoa, who was the victim of an attack last Tuesday when he was on his way home. The message sent by Alfonsin reads as follows:

"Dear Friend: Still shocked by the recent and regrettable attack against you, I wish to extend to you my warm solidarity and that of the Argintine people in view of the unfortunate incident. Those of us who have struggled for the cause of democracy and free institutions for many long years are able to better appreciate the dignity and moral courage that motivate our noble political struggle. I hope you recover soon and I wish to extend to you the fraternal greetings of a democrat and Latin American who wishes you success in your objectives.

"With warmest regards."

BRIEFS

NEW CHILEAN AMBASSADOR -- President Raul Alfonsin received the credentials of new Chilean Ambassador Arturo Fontaine Aldunate during a ceremony at Government House on 20 March. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 21 Mar 84 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN APPROVED -- Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (DYN) -- The Foreign Ministry has announced that the Japanese Government has agreed to the appointment of Enrique Ros as Argentine ambassador plenipotentiary to Japan. Ros was serving as ambassador to Spain. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2135 GMT 21 Mar 84 PY]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO PERU -- Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin today appointed former Buenos Aires Governor Anselmo Marini as Argentine ambassador plenipotentiary to Peru. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2054 GMT 21 Mar 84 PY]

SILES NOTES PEACE JEOPARDIZED BY SEA OUTLET ISSUE

PY240145 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0103 GMT 24 Mar 84

[By Adalid Cabrera Lemuz]

[Text] La Paz, 23 Mar (EFE) -- Today the Bolivians commemorated the 105th anniversary of the loss of their maritime coast resulting from a territorial war with Chile, and President Hernan Siles Zuazo called upon the international community to resolve the problem "which jeopardizes the peace of the continent."

At various civilian and military ceremonies held in different cities and rural villages, members of the government described the loss of Bolivia's sea coast in 1879 as an "act of usurpation perpetrated by Chile."

Siles Zuazo tied any eventual resumption of diplomatic relations with the Santiago Government to the willingness of the latter to lay the foundations for a solution to the landlocked situation which Bolivia had been enduring for over a century.

In a message to the nation, the Bolivian president stated that all nations of the world have a right to the sea and the wealth it carries in its womb, and added that "there will be no peace in the continent as long as Bolivia remains a landlocked nation."

Various speakers at the main ceremonies held to pay homage to the memory of National Hero Eduardo Avaroa, who defended the territory of the nation during the war with Chile, reaffirmed "the inalienable will of the nation to recover the sea, which belongs to it legally and historically."

Siles Zuazo stated that the loss of an outlet to the sea represents "a geographical mutilation carried out by the enemy with the only purpose of exercising his force and desire for conquest." However, the president stated that, despite the current circumstances, Bolivia is "willing to hold talks with Chile with the purpose of solving the conflicts between the two countries through peaceful and friendly means," but explained that "this does not mean an immediate resumption of relations with that Andean country."

Bolivian Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado, noted that Bolivia is willing to start a rapprochement with Chile and, probably, the resumption of diplomatic relations with that country in the long run, "but subject to a solution to Bolivia's landlocked situation."

The minister stated that the OAS decision to support a Bolivian-Chilean dialogue, sponsored by Colombia, is the first step of a long process which will require talks between the Santiago and La Paz governments.

The main ceremony in La Paz to commemorate the loss of the Bolivian coast was attended by high government authorities, civilian, student, and military unit representatives who sung the national anthem as 21 cannon volleys were fired "claiming the sea" according to the speakers.

Talks With Chile

PY231935 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Bolivian maritime issue has the support of the international community because historically it is a just cause, said President Hernan Siles Zuazo during a ceremony honoring Bolivian hero Eduardo Avaroa who was killed at Puente Topater 105 years ago.

[Begin Siles recording] Bolivia has always been willing to talk with Chile, particularly now that it has a democratic government which, because it advocates an international policy based on principles, believes that conflicts among nations can be solved in a peaceful and friendly manner. However, this willingness for dialogue should not be associated with an eventual and immediate normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This normalization depends on a prior Chilean recognition of the basic principles of our policies regarding the maritime (?claim) for a sovereign outlet for our country to the Pacific Ocean. [end recording]

Foreign Ministers To Meet

PY231850 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Bolivia supports the OAS decision that a rapprochement between Bolivia and Chile must come before talks on the Bolivian maritime claim. These remarks were made to Radio Panamericana by Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado after a ceremony honoring Eduardo Avaroa [Bolivian hero of War of the Pacific].

The minister also announced that the meeting he will hold with his Chilean counterpart in Geneva will establish the bases for discussing the Bolivian maritime problem, whose final solution has the support of the international community. He added that this meeting will serve to prepare the agenda for the forthcoming meeting in Bogota, Colombia, sponsored by President Betancur.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON STATUS OF BORDER WITH BRAZIL

PY242105 Paris AFP in Spanish 1622 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] La Paz, 24 Mar (AFP) -- The Bolivian Foreign Ministry today officially reported in La Paz that Bolivia and Brazil are facing no problems anywhere along the 6,330-km long common border.

Oscar Wilde Fernandez, director of the Department for Borders of the Foreign Ministry and Carlos Rivas Grana, foreign under secretary, explained that Brazil has corrected a mistake on its 1967 geographic charts which showed 870 km of Pando Department as Brazilian territory.

In this area there are many small islands at the confluence of the Itenez-Guapore and Madera-Mamore Rivers, which are tributaries of the Amazon River.

MIR RETURN TO UDP 'POLITICAL NECESSITY'

PY241952 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo has termed the return of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] to the government headed by Hernan Siles Zuazo, as a political necessity. When interviewed by Panamericana, the minister said that the crisis, which is both political and economic, will be faced not only through the return of the MIR, but also through the broadening of the base supporting the current government. The minister made his statement this morning. Cardenas Mallo referred to the subject in the following way:

[Begin recording] Being one of the founders of the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP], I have always thought that the return of the MIR is a political necessity, because [words indistinct]. Right now we have to face the political and, particularly, the economic crisis, in which the social aspect has a special impact, and the presence is needed, not only of the MIR, but also that of other forces which can cooperate in the struggle to solve the difficult situation. [end recording]

In reply to a question regarding President Siles' message, the minister said:

[Begin recording] It is a question of the measures to be approved. The president will launch his message as soon as the government has taken the measures it believes suitable to adopt. Then he will launch it, because it is closely linked to making a new political, economic, and social proposal to the country, together with a reorganization of the cabinet. [end recording].

We have listened to Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo who remarked that the return of the MIR to the government base is a political necessity in order to revive the UDP program.

CLASHES BETWEEN DRUG TRAFFICKERS LEAVE 11 DEAD

PY242110 Paris AFP in Spanish 1633 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] La Paz, 24 Mar (AFP) -- It was reported here today that clashes between groups of drug traffickers in Yapacani, north of Santa Cruz, 1,000 km east of La Paz have left 11 persons dead.

The 8th Army Division headquartered in Santa Cruz, commanded by General Gary Prado Salmon, may carry out operations in the area to prevent further clashes.

Reports from Yapacani indicated that gangs of drug traffickers fight each other using Austrian rifles and machine guns with telescopic sights, magnum pistols, and other sophisticated weapons which are forbidden in Bolivia.

Last week, a boat carrying 100 kg of cocaine was sabotaged and sunk. The six men who were in it, Hugo Paz Rocha, Ruben Arrazola, Emer Fernandez, Renan Limpas, Jorge Saucedo, and Mario Esteban Tito, were shot dead and their bodies were burned.

INVESTIGATION OF RIGHT-WING COUP RUMORS URGED

PY241721 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Valdomiro Lima, leader of the Democratic Worker's Party [PDT] in the Rio Grande do Sul State Assembly, has regarded as extremely serious the charge made by Social Democratic Party [PDS] deputies about the alleged involvement of Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel and National Intelligence Service Chief Octavio Medeiros in a plot. He said that this plot should be rejected by the entire nation. Lima said that coup plots are usually planned by governments which have come to the end of their tenure leaving behind a country stricken by poverty, famine, and unemployment.

PDT Deputy Porfirio Peixoto said that a report like this, in a mature nation, would prompt at least an investigation. He added that this is a serious charge because it was made by PDS congressmen, and thus closely linked to the government.

Ulysses Guimaraes, national president of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], has said that the right wing coup plot will not succeed because it will find no support within the Armed Forces. He noted that military uniforms do not help anyone to get food at supermarkets and that military and civilian heads of families alike are sharing the same problems.

Alceu Colares, national PDT president and former federal deputy, has proposed in the Chamber of Deputies that Ministers Abi-Ackel and Medeiros be summoned to explain the charges that they are involved in a coup plot against the institutions.

MINISTER CONFIRMS DISAGREEMENTS IN CABINET

PY231526 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Mar 84 p 5

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel confided yesterday to PDS [Social Democratic Party] deputies that he is in an open war against Minister Leitao de Abreu, chief of the Civilian Cabinet, since he believes that the task is "in the wrong hands." He also admitted that he is being supported by military sectors, including General Octavio Medeiros, chief of the National Service for Intelligence, SNI. The justice minister told the PDS deputies that "Professor Leitao de Abreu has already suffered eight defeats since he assumed his duties as chief of the cabinet in 1981." Abi-Ackel justified his work by noting that he is "motivated by patriotic feelings aimed at stopping something like an approval of a new Dante de Oliveira Amendment."

The justice minister noted that he is willing to take this matter further: He will personally ask the president if his statements are annoying the government and whether it is him or Minister Leitao de Abreu who is opposing Figueiredo. Abi-Ackel yesterday made this decision after reading the JORNAL DO BRASIL editorial severely criticizing the presidential succession process.

BRIEFS

PDT BLOC CHOOSES LEADER -- Brasilia -- Deputy Brandao Monteiro, of Rio de Janeior, has been elected leader of the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] bloc in the Federal Chamber of Deputies for 1984 [Summary] [Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Mar 84 p 9 PY]

TRADE SURPLUS RECORD -- Sao Paulo -- Foreign Trade Department director Carlos Viacava has reported that the trade surplus hit a record of $856 million in February, and that this figure is even larger than last year's high of June, when the surplus reached $829 million. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 9 Mar 84 p 13 PY]

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED FROM 24 MARCH

PY240140 Paris AFP in Spanish 0124 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 23 Mar (AFP) -- The Chilean Military Government today decreed a state of emergency throughout the country at a time when the political opposition is preparing to participate in the eighth day of national protest, which has been programmed for next Tuesday [27 March]. The announcement was made by Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa, who indicated that the state of emergency empowers the government to apply exceptional measures in order to guarantee public order and [words indistinct] of the Chileans.

Interior Minister Comments

PY241821 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The Chilean Government has decreed a state of emergency throughout the country. The state of emergency will be in effect for 90 days as of today. This information was released last night by Interior Minister Sergio Onofra Jarpa who explained the measure by terming it preventive, adding that it has been decreed to avoid greater evils. Jarpa emphasized that the situation is far from being unmanageable and the government is not moved by the desire to instill terror or by the spirit of revenge and repression. The minister indicated that unconstitutional or illegal measures will not be employed. The measures which will be used are similar to those which all past Chilean Governments have been compelled to implement to protect public order and individual rights of the inhabitants of the nation.

The government is responsible for the security of all people, including children and women. It must prevent destruction of private property and criminal and terrorist actions which hamper the normal development of national activities. In this regard the minister said:

[Begin Jarpa recording] Bearing all this in mind and aware of its responsibilities, the government was compelled to implement these measures which we hope will be only transitory. [end recording]

The minister added that the regional intendants have a detailed account of the reasons which have moved the government to assume responsibility for the measure. Each regional intendant and the heads of forces of public order have been duly instructed to protect the life, rights, and security of the people.

The interior minister went on to call upon the citizenry to help maintain tranquility.

[Begin Jarpa recording] I would like to take the opportunity of having these channels of communication available to ask all Chileans, especially the Chilean women, who have always been the most stable and responsible sector of the nation, to help maintain tranquility, faith in Chile's future, and share our conviction that terrorist extremism will never bend to its will our spirit of freedom and our traditional values, the fatherland, the family, and the belief in the Christian and Western lifestyle.

Therefore, I ask you to not allow yourselves to be frightened or confused. Our course toward democracy is straightforward, it has been established by a constitution which the people approved. This course has been repeatedly described by the president of the nation and we will staunchly hold it with the help of all Chilean women and men of goodwill, of the working people who want order and security to live, who want stability to be able to work and freedom to create. We will never allow ourselves to be led astray by the actions of extremists who express their opinions through violence, terrorism, or murder. [end recording]

Later the interior minister urged all Chileans to engage in soul searching and bear in mind that not only the government but all Chileans are responsible for the fate of Chile.

[Begin Jarpa recording] The government will always do its share and will always do the best for the people and for our future as a nation, but building a dynamic state, creating stable democratic and republican institutions like the ones we had in the last century after General Prieto's regime, which endowed Chile with political stability, is a task for all. Despite the fact that it was the poorest of Spain's colonies, Chile became a leading nation in the cultural, social, and economic fields, in this part of the world. [end recording]

Minister Jarpa concluded by saying that the task today is to strengthen the stability of the nation which was totally disrupted during the Marxist regime. He called upon the people to help set up organizations which will allow us to give the youth of Chile a magnificent future. He urged the citizenry to look into the future, to open new paths for the youth but, he emphasized, always within an atmosphere of respect, order, and shared objectives, without accepting alien interests for whatever reason. Neither foreign governments nor enterprises must interfere with the course which must be set by Chileans, he said.

The decree which established the state of emergency as of today bears the number 310.

CURFEW 'POSSIBLE' FOR 27 MARCH DAY OF PROTEST

PY251940 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0759 GMT 25 Mar 84

[By Albino Mallo]

[Excerpts] Santiago, 25 Mar (EFE) -- Saturday Santiago Intendant General Roberto Guillard said that it is quite possible that a curfew will be enforced next Tuesday, the day of national protest.

Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa yesterday said to Radio Mineria that the government knows that there are plans to carry out violent actions "during the so-called peaceful protest." However, the groups which called the protest and the ones supporting it insist on the peaceful nature of the protest. They are already blaming the government for the disorders which may take place.

Sergio Onofre Jarpa said that "I cannot see how a protest can be peaceful if there is concerted action to paralyzed traffic, set fire to vehicles, and loot businesses."

Labor leader Rodolfo Seguel, president of the National Workers Command, the multi-union organization which called the protest, labeled the state of emergency "as a new and serious government mistake." Seguel emphasized the peaceful nature of the protest next Tuesday saying that "we have great strength, and are convinced that a peaceful struggle is more constructive than violence."

The Democratic Alliance [AD], an opposition coalition made up of the Christian Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Radical Party [PR], the Republican right, and the Socialist Bloc, today called an urgent meeting of its leaders. Upon a request by Enrique Silva Cimma, head of the PD, AD President Gabriel Valdes called all the leaders for a meeting late this afternoon to study the general situation of the country after the latest events. The most important recent events include, in addition to the state of emergency, the declarations made by the interior minister and other government representatives, and the arrest of over 20 people who were put at the disposal of the Interior Ministry.

Party Note on Demonstration

PY242100 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Tuesday a peaceful protest will be held, and our commitment to achieve democracy still holds, reads part of a Christian Democratic Party note that has been made public by party President Gabriel Valdes.

[Begin Valdes recording] The Christian Democratic Party, along with most of the social and popular organizations, has called for a protest demonstration on Tuesday 27 March. This call has been made after carefully and patriotically assessing the moral obligation to denounce the crisis which affects the morals, the politics, and the economy of Chile; and considering that Chileans have no other form of expression but that of peaceful protest. [end recording]

It adds that in the face of this resolution, the government has declared a state of emergency, and so the Christian Democratic Party feels obligated to declare the following:

[Begin Valdes recording] The successive cases of abuse of authority and the attacks on dissident personalities, especially the cowardly attack on former Senator Jorge Lavanderos, demonstrate that the government is stepping up aggression and repression. [end recording]

In this way, the note says, the government breaks further away from Chilean aspirations for democracy, development, and peace.

[Begin Valdes recording] History has proved that the effects of these attitudes are ephemeral and useless. This has been demonstrated by the facts for more than 10 years during which the Chilean people have been subjected to a state of exception rules. The use of these strong measures makes the government fully responsible for the consequences such measures may have. Second, the announced measures change nothing, because a patriotic imperative calls on Chileans to protest. However, we must face the reality of new provocation attempts. We must therefore remind all Chilean democrats that the protest on 27 March is basically aimed at creating a state of awareness about the critical situation the country is experiencing, and at expressing their democratic aspirations through peaceful symbols, actions, and attitudes. [end recording]

Upon delivering the note to the press, Gabriel Valdes said:

[Begin Valdes recording] Therefore, it is only appropriate to disregard any provocation intended to bring out hostile answers or violent actions which can only favor the continuity of the antidemocratic regime. Third, we made a call on all those who yearn for freedom, whatever his station in life and his ideological position, to join in a generous and supreme effort to live in peace, despite the regime and its new maneuvers to close off the road toward democracy. [end recording]

Attaining democracy is the moral duty of all Chileans who are willing to contribute their share and who trust that this call will be heard.

PINOCHET PROMISES 'WE WILL DEFEAT MARXISM'

PY231920 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet said that we will defeat Marxism as many times as necessary. He made this blunt statement during a meeting that he held with (?1,000) youth leaders and members of the National Women's Secretariat at the Benjamin Vergara High School in the town of Padre Hurtado. Pinochet was interrupted many times by the cheers of the young men that gathered. General Pinochet stated that both youth and women are fundamental for the development and the reconstruction of Chile. Pinochet said that we can work for building an effective democracy today and can discuss the best way to achieve it because we defeated the totalitarians in the past so that we may sovereignly decide our future.

[Begin Pinochet recording, in progress] ... at a time when some of the ghosts of the past have reappeared and totalitarian voices are also being heard again, voices encouraging class struggles among Chileans. They are (?trying to revert) to before 11 September 1973 [overthrow of Salvador Allende] but let me tell you from this rostrum that we all shall defeat them as many times as necessary to keep freedom in Chile. [applause and cheers] We are now witnessing how the country is enduring an all-out offensive by the opposition both at home and abroad, seeking to discredit our achievements over the past 10 years. [end recording]

Speaking from the rostrum Pinochet stressed that the activities carried out by the youth and the women are motivated by their purest love for their fatherland. He said that the tasks [word indistinct] in sturdy principles that are shared by most Chileans and are the common ground for getting along [word indistinct]. He then focused on the achievements made through efforts to preserve the dignity of breadwinners and their families, and to attain democracy and political freedom. The president also rejected terrorism and totalitarianism. He also stressed the role played by private businessmen, the social expenditures, and depoliticized unions.

[Begin Pinochet recording, in progress] ...therefore you have achieved a breakthrough in your quest for justice [passage indistinct] to turn Chile into a country of free men, men who are proud of the history of their country, and confident of their country's future. [end recording]

Pinochet concluded by saying that the Chileans today must go through another phase in the country's history, a phase in which we all bear the responsibility of jointly building the foundations of a political, economic, and social system capable of harmoniously balancing a free way of life with social development and justice.

ABC COLOR EDITORIAL EXPLAINS PAPER'S PURPOSE

PY231650 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Mar 84 p 10

[Editorial: "Our Line"]

[Text] Life can end at any time. It is so for individuals, institutions, and undertakings. For newspapers, like ABC COLOR, it is no different. It is therefore important to always keep that in mind and to live every moment as though it were the last. What counts for each person is knowing how he has lived, whether he has had any life-guiding principles or none, and whether he has been faithful to those principles. In sum, what counts is the result of one's self-examination, where there is no room for lies.

ABC came to life on 8 August 1967 when the National Constituent Assembly was culminating its deliberations and a new constitution was emerging to rule the life of the nation. We have tried to be faithful to that Constitution, to its letter, and above all to its spirit. We took the Constitution to mean a pact of national unity as well as a point of reference for the rights, freedoms, and obligations of all the citizenry.

In our journalistic work we have always tried to live up fully to the constitutional provisions regarding freedom of the press. We, in fact, believe that this freedom is a prerequisite for any other individual freedom. Further, we believe that freedom of the press is useful to the nation and to the government, because its exercise performs a function of mediation and denunciation. We gave out praise whenever we believed it was due, and also sometimes made mistakes in giving it out. We criticized whenever we thought it was necessary, but sometimes we were wrong.

But we never extolled anybody, because we believe that flattery and adulation are not only dishonest but also useless, since they end up hurting the one for whom they were meant. Intellectual honesty has been our lodestar. It did not show the easiest path, but the one the press must follow.

We are gratified by and satisfied with the support the public always gave us. We have worked for the public, and the public let us know that our work was appreciated. This is a very great reward, considering our limitations, flaws, and errors. Perhaps deep down we are not so modest, because we wanted to make a newspaper serve the nation and more, yet to be identified with the nation as one of its lasting institutions. This ambition may seem excessive and, in our case, it may have been so. But we had the example of a press which is an all-important part of the soul and the affairs of many other nations. We believe the public understood our journalistic line. However, it does not seem that it was understood by some sectors.

Denouncing dishonesty and intolerance has been our unswerving objective. And so we were frequently attacked with all the might that could be mustered against us, including threat, offense, and insult. We are far from being perfect, but our ideals have always been sincere and pure. We have taken and will continue to take inspiration from a single fount: Paraguay. We are at its service, work for it, and will not spare any sacrifice. We believe in this nation to which we have professed abiding faith for 16 years.

PATRIA REPLIES TO U.S. STATEMENT ON ABC CLOSURE

PY241522 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 24 Mar 84 p 4

[Editorial commentary: "The U.S. Embassy Statement"]

[Text] Our daily has received a "U.S. Embassy statement regarding the suspension of the daily ABC COLOR."

With diplomatic courtesy it "regrets" the measure taken against ABC COLOR and the detention of Zuccolillo who has already been released. It considers this to be a "serious violation of the freedom of the press." We also "regret" that the daily ABC has been closed, but we would have "regretted" still more if the abetting of moral obstinacy, which endangers public peace, had continued.

The statement says: "The U.S. Government is firmly committed to the principle of the freedom of the press, which is recognized by all democratic governments as one of the necessary conditions for the flourishing of democracy." The Paraguayan Government is just as firmly committed to the freedom of the press as the U.S. Government, on the condition that it should not be offensive or endanger the peace and tranquillity of 3 million Paraguayans. Furthermore, Uncle Sam only sees a "violation of the ethics of journalism and Paraguayan laws" which has been committed.

The statement adds: "We hope to see ABC COLOR reopened without restrictions." The reply is: That depends on the will of the government and the laws of a sovereign country.

The embassy says that it will follow the events with interests and concern. It does right. Friendly countries deserve exactly that: interest and concern.

ABC PUBLISHER ZUCCOLILLO UNDER HOUSE ARREST

PY231629 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 1615 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] We want to repeat that ABC COLOR publisher Aldo Zuccolillo went back home today after being held for 8 days at Police Headquarters. Shortly before being released, Zuccolillo was told by the chief of the Police Public Order Department that he must not leave his home. Thus Mr Zuccolillo is under house arrest.

Police Raid Zuccolillo Home

PY232135 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 2120 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] This afternoon the home of ABC COLOR newspaper director Aldo Zuccolillo was raided under a police order. We were there and were able to talk to Zuccolillo's lawyer, Geronimo Angulo Gaston, at the entrance of the house, but were not allowed to enter any further. However, everything seems to have returned to normal and the legal steps involved in this raid have already been taken. Aldo Zuccolillo is under house arrest but it was stated that he is now practically without a police guard.

DETAINED ABC COLOR JOURNALIST DE TONE RELEASED

PY231523 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 1430 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] ABC COLOR journalist Jose Luis De Tone was released this morning. He was arrested yesterday during the events that took place in front of the newspaper, after the Interior Ministry decision to close the newspaper was made known.

LABOR MINISTRY ON STRIKE DAY ABSENTEEISM

PY241920 Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0540 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Interior Minister Luis Percovich has indicated that yesterday's strike was a failure. Percovich also criticized certain Communist and American Revolutionary Popular Alliance mayors who closed down markets and city halls.

The labor minister, meanwhile, reported the following figures for workers who reported to work during the strike: 66.4 percent nationwide average, (Arequipa 74 percent, Chiclayo 77 percent, Chimbote 67 percent, Piura 68 percent, Huancayo 65 percent, Cusco 70.9 percent, Pucallpa 72.4 percent, Iquitos 64.5 percent, Tacna 66.7 percent, Puno 91.1 percent, Talara 70.8 percent, Cerro de Pasco 44.3 percent).

Ivan Rivera, Peruvian minister of industries, stated that the strike caused losses of 600 million soles.

Details of Incidents

PY231519 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Mar 84

[From "America and the World Program"]

[Summary] "America and the World will today try to give its audience an objective view of how the strike was carried out in Lima, Callao, and the provinces."

"In the northern sector of Lima, the strike was characterized by the absence of bus transportation and it was tarnished by some isolated disorder." There was not enough transportation for those who decided to go to work, some streets were blockaded, particularly on Tupakamaru Avenue where some irresponsible individuals started throwing stones at buses and private vehicles which were transporting workers. However, the intervention of the police normalized the situation.

There were no violent incidents in the southern region of the capital city, at least during our tour through the area. Here, too, no transportation was available and people complained about the high rates charged by private vehicles which were transporting people.

"Undoubtedly, Plaza, 2 de Mayo was the site of the most important incident between the police and leftist demonstrators. Senator Jorge del Prado suffered serious injuries during the incidents, and he had to be hospitalized." It was later reported that he is not in critical condition. It was also reported that Cesar Barrera, SUTEP [Sole Trade Union of Education Workers] secretary general, received injuries to both legs.

There were serious incidents between students and police on the San Marcos University campus. The incidents started at 0600 when students blockaded Venezuela Avenue. The police used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators and briefly entered the university campus.

In Callao the transportation service and port activities were the areas most affected by the strike. About 80 percent of the shops were closed.

Interior Minister on Riots

PY241809 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Luis Percovich today stated that no legislator is empowered to abuse his immunity and break the law by promoting disorder and violence. He made this remark in connection with the presence of leftist congressmen in the riots which took place yesterday at Plaza 2 de Mayo where Senator Jorge del Prado was wounded.

Percovich also discussed the detention of several newsmen and the involvement of some communist mayors in acts of agitation. He made these remarks at the end of a cabinet meeting.

[Begin Percovich recording] Regarding those newsmen who were detained yesterday, three of them -- Nancy Arellano (Pezantes), Julio Rodriguez Aranda, and Juan Efrain (Ozores) -- were detained by the Civil Guard while attending a clandestine meeting at a communal house in Villa El Salvador. This information was given to me by the Civil Guard. This clandestine meeting was called to support the strike.

Regarding the mayors who joined the strike, I have here a report that Jose Miranda Valladares, mayor of San Martin de Porres; and Roberto Tronco Criollo, the chairman of the city council of this same district, were detained for instigating the masses to throw stones at Civil Guard personnel and to destroy private property in the vicinity of Peru Avenue.

Regarding the congressmen, it is true that they have immunity, but this should not be mistaken for impunity.

Regarding the unfortunate incident involving Senator Jorge del Prado, I have a report handed to me by another prosecutor and by the duty coroner. Let us see what the report says about Senator Del Prado's wound: Asked by the duty prosecutor, the coroner said that Senator Del Prado's wound is a cut caused by a yet undetermined object. Asked whether the senator was burned or received other injuries, the coroner said the senator was not burned or injured in any other way. [end recording]

Interior Ministry Communique

PY241935 Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0543 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Communique No 2 issued by the Public Relations Office of the Interior Ministry on 22 March 1984 in Lima]

[Text] 1. During an alleged demonstration staged, without any authorization whatsoever, by a small group of persons on Plaza 2 de Mayo today, Senator Jorge del Prado reportedly was superficially injured.

2. The senator was taken to the Arzobispo Loayza Hospital where after laboratory and other exams were made, the following diagnosis was made: there was a 10-cm long cut in the area of the left breast. The patient has recovered from his initial low blood pressure reaction. He is improving and his vital signs remain stable and are being continuously evaluated.

3. The Interior Ministry has ordered an investigation into the circumstances which led to this incident in order to implement the appropriate measures.

Percovich Resignation Demanded

PY241950 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Several Popular Action and Popular Christian Party [AP-PPC] congressmen have given their full support to Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca and have rejected the demand for his resignation by leftist congressmen. The leftist bloc in Congress demanded Percovich's resignation because it holds him responsible for the incidents that took place at Plaza 2 de Mayo where leftist Senator Jorge del Prado suffered an accident.

Dagoberto Lainez, president of the Chamber of Deputies, has stated that there can be no doubt that the interior minister cannot be held politically or legally responsible for a police matter. All of the AP-PPC congressmen agreed on stating that although they regret what happened to Senator Del Prado, this incident can in no way justify the request for the minister's resignation since the incidents were instigated by the leftists.

FOREIGN MINISTRY REFUTES REPORTS ON MISSING

PY242325 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0508 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 23 Mar (EFE) -- A communique released by the Press and Information Department of the Foreign Ministry today "categorically" denied that there are "missing" persons in the country. This note is aimed at refuting reports that "certain news media have been disseminating lately concerning alleged missing people in Peru." The communique further adds that "armed gangs which operate in small areas of the country under the name of 'Shining Path' are clashing with forces of order and killing innocent people."

In view of this, the Foreign Ministry communique states, the Peruvian Government "did not resort to indiscriminate repression" since it is aware of the difference between repression "as being that practiced by underdemocratic regimes, and the exercise of legal authority" in keeping with the Constitution, under the control of the three branches of the government, with respect for "unrestricted freedom of the press." The Foreign Ministry concluded by rejecting the "ignoble falsehood that there are 'missing' persons in the country."

SHINING PATH LEADER ARRESTED; AMMUNITION SEIZED

PY231640 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Dangerous and bloodthirsty Comrade Sofia, a subversive militant of the Peruvian Communist Party Shining Path [as heard], has been arrested here just as she was planning to carry out a number of attacks in various provinces and districts.

Comrade Sofia, a Shining Path leader, was arrested by the Army in an apparently uninhabited house located at the intersection of (Jiron Callao) and Libertadores Streets, five blocks from this city's main square. The house was a true arsenal. The Army discovered a large amount of dynamite, bullets and printed subversive material. Comrade Sofia's true name is (Vilma Quiroz).

OBSERVERS TO SALVADORAN ELECTIONS REQUESTED

PA232047 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 16 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul has formally asked the Supreme Electoral Council to send two representatives of the tribunal as observers to the presidential elections which will take place in El Salvador on 25 March.

The Foreign Ministry note states that the permanent council of the OAS issued a resolution on 22 February stating that each member government had agreed to send two observers to the elections in El Salvador as well as the elections to be held in Guatemala on 1 July.

Meanwhile, Jose Antonio Hasfura, El Salvador's ambassador to Venezuela, ratified his government's invitation to Venezuela so that the Venezuelan Government may appoint its two observers.

Just yesterday, former President Luis Herrera Campins spoke with Carlos Delgado Chapellin, president of the Supreme Electoral Council about naming the observers. It was learned that the following persons will probably be appointed: Rafael Guevara, independent members-AD [Democratic Action] [as published]; Enrique Bustamante, representative of COPEI [Social Christian Party], and General Bernardo Rigores, retired.

BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

PA241734 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 16 Mar 84 p D 11

[Excerpts] Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro yesterday ended a 26-hour visit to Venezuela after holding several meetings that both foreign ministries termed very positive.

At noon Saraiva held a news conference in which he explained the basic objectives of his visit.

He was asked to what extent the present economic crisis in both countries affects bilateral relations.

He said that "one of the worries we have in both countries is how to prevent the circumstances of the world economic crisis, which has affected us and is affecting international trade in general, from causing a reduction in trade and economic cooperation."

He said that he favors the adoption of measures that will prevent a reduction in trade, which has been developing satisfactorily.

He was asked about the Amazon Agreement, which he called a cooperation treaty that avoided the discussion of political affairs in order to concentrate on economic integration with regard to tariffs and trade.

There has been a reemphasis of the treaty's goals, to which end eight scientific seminars have been scheduled to obtain greater knowledge of the Amazon Basin, its advantageous uses, and how to best exploit it.

In reply to a question about the increasing tension in Central America, especially since the United States announced increased financing for the anti-Sandinists fighting against Nicaragua from bases in Honduras, Saraiva said:

"Unquestionably, the Central American situation is grave, and we are all interested in finding a negotiated solution that will assure every country that there is no risk for the security of the region or for each individual country in the area."

In conclusion, Saraiva reaffirmed the Brazilian Government's emphatic moral and political support for the Contadora Group. "We have kept in touch with the countries of the Contadora Group, and our position has always been not to go beyond what is appropriate for the Group, and the subject of its work."

The Brazilian foreign minister said it would not have been appropriate for the OAS to deal with the Central American crisis because the adoption of positions through public speeches would have made any negotiations more difficult.

In reply to another question, he referred to the demands being made by the political opposition on his country to hold direct presidential elections.

He said that the present Brazilian Constitution provides for the election of a president through an electoral college in January 1985.

"This is what will happen, unless the Congress passes an amendment to the Constitution, which is unlikely," he said.

He conceded that there is a rising movement among political parties and leaders for direct presidential elections and said this will be solved democratically.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS ANNOUNCED -- Jose de Jesus Osio, Venezuelan ambassador to Indonesia, has been appointed ambassador to Barbados. Also, Antonio Aveledo has been appointed ambassador to Bulgaria, replacing Eduardo Morreo, who has been transferred to Bolivia, replacing Jorge Rodriguez Diaz. In addition, German Lairet has been appointed ambassador to Yugoslavia, replacing Martiniano Bracho Sierra. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Mar 84 p D 4 PA]

KOREAN FRIENDSHIP GROUP -- The recently-created Venezuelan-Korean Friendship Group met yesterday at the National Assembly with Korean Ambassador to Venezuela Miong Jean Limb in new efforts to bolster Venezuelan-south Korean relations. The group, led by Deputy Julio Cesar Moreno, includes Deputies Adolfo Melchert, Gonzalo Perez Hernandez, Pedro Tabat Guzman, Pablo Bolanos, Jesus Eduardo Triconis, and Gustavo Tarre Briceno. The group's secretary is Juan Antonio Altazoro and its adviser is Milos Alcalay. [Excerpt] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 14 Mar 84 p D 12 PA]

DE LA MADRID'S S.A. TRIP AGENDA ANNOUNCED

FL222015 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1823 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid will begin his tour of South America on Monday by traveling first to Bogota, Colombia where he will arrive in the afternoon. He will remain in Bogota until 28 March.

After talks with Colombian President Belisario Betancur, the Mexican president will depart for Brasilia on the afternoon of 28 March. He will visit that capital on 29 - 30 March and will meet with Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo.

On 31 March, De la Madrid will leave Brasilia for Sao Paulo and will proceed to Rio de Janeiro where he will arrive that night. On Sunday, 1 April he will have lunch with the governor of Rio de Janeiro.

On 2 April, he will leave for Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he will spend 2 - 4 April. On these dates, he will hold talks with his Argentine counterpart Raul Alfonsin.

On the morning of 5 April, De la Madrid will depart for Caracas to meet with President Jaime Lusinchi. He will remain in that city until 6 April.

On the morning of 7 April he will return to Mexico City, but a stopover in Panama is planned.

Armed Forces Back President

FL232341 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2041 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Armed Forces today expressed their recognition and support for President Miguel de la Madrid's foreign policy as he is about to begin a tour of four South American countries. The secretaries of the navy and national defense, Admiral Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega and Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, respectively, stated in two documents that the country is in complete calm. In addition, they wished success to the Mexican president in his working tour of Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, and Brazil which will begin on Monday.

BERNARDO SEPULVEDA ON CONTADORA, UNITED NATIONS

FL230258 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2336 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Instability and the regionalization of the Central American conflict would inevitably pass beyond the borders of the isthmus, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda said here today. Nevertheless, the Contadora Group -- which is a dike holding back war in the region -- trusts international community action to make reason prevail and to keep the peace, Sepulveda added.

When speaking in the presence of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, at the ceremony in which the Mexican Government decorated Perez de Cuellar with the Order of the Aztec Eagle [la Orden del Aguila Azteca], Sepulveda reaffirmed Mexican principles which favor detente.

The Mexican foreign secretary stated that the aspirations and legal norms of international law -- pluralism, and aspirations of justice -- are damaged by new and grave dissension between the two [super] powers. The suicidal increase in the arms race, growing regional and local conflicts, and the deep world economic crisis, are the expression of this dissension, which accentuates economic inequality and social tensions.

The Mexican diplomat then stated that Mexico has reaffirmed its pledge to and solidarity with the United Nations because this organization expresses the cries for justice and gives voice to the political will of the peoples of the South.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR ON CENTRAL AMERICAN PROBLEMS

FL241920 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0150 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today that the UN General Assembly and Security Council unconditionally support the Contadora Group's efforts to prevent the Central American conflict from growing.

At a press conference concluding his 2-day visit, Perez de Cuellar said that during their talks on the Central American situation that he and President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado had agreed on the need to diminish and solve the problems as quickly as possible. The conference was delayed for 1 hour. Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor explained that the delay was due to the talks between Perez de Cuellar and De la Madrid, which he described as useful and fruitful.

After thanking the Mexican Government for its hospitality, Perez de Cuellar said that it was too early to foresee a solution to the Central American problem and that it was difficult to pinpoint a date on which multinational peacekeeping forces could arrive in those countries. He rejected the idea that conflicts in Central America have replaced those in the Middle East as the most likely to bring about a third world war and said: The organization over which I preside is equally concerned with all world problems. Peace is universal and global. A preference does not exist for one region over another. He added that the Contadora Group -- composed of Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela -- should, besides trying to find a peaceful solution to this region's problems, also try to prevent the Central American problem from becoming part of an East-West confrontation.

Speaking of conventional and nuclear weapons, Perez de Cuellar said that despite UN efforts to eradicate both, conventional weapons are the more serious problem because they are found in the Third World, where governments buy armaments with resources that could be used for food, school construction, hospitals, highways, and so on. He reiterated that the 25 March elections in El Salvador and the November elections in Nicaragua would not automatically solve the problems of either country.

Porfirio Munoz Ledo, Mexico's ambassador to the UN; Victor Flores Olea, Mexico's foreign relations under secretary; Enrique Iglesias, ECLA's executive secretary; and Mario Zamorano, the UN secretary general's spokesman, were present at the press conference.

NORIEGA ON PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY MANEUVERS

PA232346 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Video interview with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panamanian National Defense Forces, by unidentified reporters, on 22 March 1984 in San Salvador -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Noriega] From what I have seen, the Salvadoran Armed Forces plan to guarantee the freedom to vote. Based on reports, the people will have the means and facilities to vote.

[Reporter] Has there been any change of policy between Panama and the United States regarding the Canal?

[Noriega] The Torrijos-Carter Treaty signed by the United States and Panama is being followed, except for some minor administrative details, which have been corrected. The United States is complying with the treaty and Panama is getting ready to assume the entire administration, control, and defense of the country in December 1999. President Reagan has expressed his support for the treaty, and any complaints that might exist are minor and normal for a treaty as important and of such great significance for all of America as the Panama Canal treaty.

[Second reporter] Gen Noriega, are the Panamanian Armed Forces going to participate in the maneuvers scheduled to begin on 22 May in Honduras?

[Noriega] Panama belongs to the group of.... [changes thought] We have participated before in similar maneuvers, which are strictly for military training. We were not excluded; we were invited to participate.

[Third reporter] Have you ordered that Panamanian troops be sent to Honduras to participate in the maneuvers along with Honduran, U.S., and Salvadoran troops?

[Noriega] Yes; we are going to participate in the maneuvers.

[Fourth reporter] How does the presence of Soviet warships in the Caribbean affect Central American politics?

[Noriega] All this falls within the context of the geopolitical and strategic interests on which the world has become polarized. This includes the American continent.

[Fifth reporter] Are the maneuvers part of a defense operation to guard against the threat of foreign invasion in Central America?

[Noriega] Any ostentatious demonstration of force shifts the balance between justice and power. The presence of any powerful foreign force can do this.

DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN MANEUVERS DISCUSSED

PA231756 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Mar 84 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] The recent announcement that Panama will participate in the joint military maneuvers involving the Armed Forces of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and the United States dangerously moves our country closer to the scene of the grave Central American conflicts.

The poor excuse that this is to be a mere training exercise cannot conceal the obvious fact that the maneuvers are being staged at what is perhaps the most critical moment in the Central American crisis, and that its purpose is openly to intimidate.

The region is slowly but inexorably moving closer to war, and instead of striving to remain outside the conflict Panama is doing everything in its power to become involved in it, with consequences that we will all regret later. Moreover, Panama's participation in the maneuvers removes all value from the pacification efforts made within the framework of the Contadora Group because it is obvious that Panama cannot aspire to continue mediating in good faith in a conflict in which it has militarily committed itself to one of the parties.

From the domestic standpoint, it is deplorable that the absence of representative and vigorous government institutions allows the country's foreign policy to be subject to the decisions made unilaterally by the Defense Forces. All military men claim that peace is their goal, but they incessantly prepare for war. In the end, that is what we will have -- war.

BRIEFS

SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR -- Tae-Yamg Kim, [as published] South Korea's ambassador to Panama, paid a courtesy call on General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, at the Defense Forces headquarters in Panama City. [Summary] [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 22 Mar 84 p 2 PA]

BELIZE

PRICE PRESENTS 1984-85 BUDGET TO PARLIAMENT

FL240005 Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Belize City, Belize, March 23 (CANA) -- Belize Prime Minister George Price has presented Parliament with an austerity 1984-85 budget, projecting total spending of 180.3 million dollars (one Bel dollar; 49 cents U.S.) -- 14.3 million less than in the previous fiscal year. Price introduced about three million dollars in new taxes and duties and told Parliament the budget was aimed at improving government efficiency and "restoring fiscal discipline, vital to (the country's) economic recovery."

Government anticipates revenue of 95 million dollars. The capital programme in the new financial year starting April 1 will call for 88.7 million dollars, with current expenditure estimated at 91.6 million dollars. The deficit of 85.3 million dollars is expected to be financed mostly by loans and grants from foreign sources, including the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Canada, Britain, the United States and the European Community.

Price said the budget had slashed government's spending to the bone. He announced plans to tighten up on "spendthrift statutory boards" which must now "operate on a more commercial basis" with government assisting only in streamlining their operations.

Price who is also minister of finance called the budget a "difficult" one, the difficulty caused by the international economic mess. "Economic circumstances, many of which are beyond our control have weakened our fiscal position and we project a deficit of approximately eleven point three million dollars for the fiscal year 1983/84," Price told Parliament.

Economic growth last year was minimal, he said, but inflation declined. There was a small increase of just over one half of one per cent in the gross domestic product and the consumer price index declined to roughly two per cent. The price of most of Belize's export commodities remained depressed on the world market. The average export price of sugar contained its steady fall and was down to 626 dollars per long ton in 1983 from a high of 982 dollars in 1980, Price said. Income from molasses, fish and garment also fell during last year but was up for citrus concentrate, banana and timber.

Major capital projects in the next financial year will include the improvement and reconstruction of roads and bridges, provision of more low cost housing, increased investment in the livestock industry, expansion of a land reform programme, and preparation for a new terminal building for the Belize International Airport. Price announced plans to introduce legislation in the near future to permit married couples to file separate income tax returns in the only potential tax relief measure. At present married couples file their returns jointly.

COSTA RICA

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA SENDS LETTER TO MONGE

PA231611 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has sent a lengthy letter to Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge.

Although the Sandinist ambassador here asked that the president himself receive special Sandinist envoy Augusto Montealegre, who is a Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry official, Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Urbina received the letter. According to Deputy Foreign Minister Urbina, Ortega Saavedra's letter is 3 pages long, and although its full contents have not been disclosed it is said to reiterate the Sandinists' concern over the military situation in Central America.

One of the major concerns of the Sandinist regime is the worsening of tensions in Central America, which they blame on the U.S. military presence and the intensification of guerrilla activities in Nicaragua. Ortega Saavedra's lengthy letter [words indistinct] apparently reiterates the charges against the Reagan administration in connection with violence and the guerrillas in Central America. Efforts were made this afternoon at the presidential house to obtain specific information on the contents of Ortega's letter, but the president apparently now has the letter.

According to Deputy Foreign Minister Urbina, his meeting with the special Nicaraguan envoy was very brief, since they only exchanged views and expressed some opinions on the current regional situation. Concerning the Costa Rican case, the deputy foreign minister asserted that Costa Rica wants to establish unambiguous communication, as this is essential to the establishment of a fitting relationship between neighboring countries.

Ortega Saavedra's letter to Monge Alvarez was sent open, and was received at the Foreign Ministry, which acted as a liaison because the president did not receive the Sandinist envoy. Surprise has been expressed in the diplomatic circles that while the Sandinist regime has not answered the protest note that they Costa Rican Government sent it 1 month ago in connection with the armed attack on a Rural Guard patrol in Conventillos, the Managua regime has now sent a letter about other topics.

In addition, Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said that the Nicaraguan Government officials' contradictory actions are noteworthy because while on the one hand they sometimes claim to want good relations with Costa Rica, on the other hand they have also announced that they will make accusations against us at the UN Security Council. According to the foreign minister, the keynote of the Nicaraguan Government's recent actions is that they are contradictory.

NICARAGUANS WARN OTHER C.A. PORTS MAY BE MINED

PA231645 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1616 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] San Jose, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has warned Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge of the danger that all Central American ports may be mined by insurgent groups.

According to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, "When Dr Sergio Ramirez and Foreign Minister D'Escoto passed through here on their way to Iran and Europe, they indicated that the Central American guerrilla groups might decide to act in solidarity with Nicaragua." The minister added that those groups could "mine ports in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador in reprisal for a similar action taken by ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] in Nicaraguan ports."

The fact that Ortega Saavedra has expanded this warning to include the possibility of attacks on ports in Costa Rica and Panama "is very serious," according to Gutierrez, who noted that "Panama is a member of the Contadora Group."

Ortega expressed equal concern over "the increased U.S. military presence in the area." Ortega's letter, the text of which has not been released, was discussed by the Costa Rican Security Council last night. It had been delivered to Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Urbina by Augusto Montealegre, a Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry official.

MONGE COMMENTS ON NICARAGUAN MINE WARNINGS

PA250308 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1901 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Report by Jesus Hernandez Cuellar]

[Text] San Jose, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has described as "incredible" Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega's statement that leftist guerrilla groups would mine ports of Central American countries. Monge, who acknowledged learning of the statement from reports from Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, said that it is "a reaction to internal problems" of the Nicaraguans, who are "experiencing a war." "It is incredible," the president added, "that reprisals be carried out against other countries that have nothing to do with that internal struggle, because the struggle in Nicaragua cannot be denied." President Monge's comment is based on the warning issued in Managua by Humberto Ortega, chief of the Nicaraguan Army, who said that leftist insurgents might mine the region's ports from Guatemala to Panama if the tensions in Central America increase. The Costa Rican president took the opportunity to reiterate that his country "only wants peace for Central America, and we will make efforts to ensure that war does not reach us."

Monge also spoke of a letter that Sandinist Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega sent him in which the Nicaraguan leader reported an increase in the U.S. military presence in the region and requested Costa Rican support for Nicaragua in the Contadora Group with regard to this subject. After citing figures on the increase of U.S. troops, Ortega added in his letter that "there has been a dangerous increase in the undeclared war against Nicaragua." In this regard Monge said: "We would rather have the Central Americans solve their own problems without the interference of military men from outside the area." Regarding the internal conflicts, the Costa Rican president said that "both El Salvador and Nicaragua face a civil war," but he expressed hope that "there will be no confrontation between two Central American countries." Regarding the alleged mining of ports, it has been reported that the Costa Rican Government has ordered preventive measures in view of the Sandinist military chief's statement. The local press has reported that, according to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, during a recent visit to Costa Rica Sandinist leaders Sergio Ramirez and Miguel D'Escoto warned that leftists might carry out actions of solidarity due to the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

MORA VALVERDE EXPLAINS LA NACION STATEMENT

PA211807 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 7

[Paid advertisement by Manuel Mora Valverde, president of the Popular Vanguard Party, PVP, entitled: "I Am Not a Stool Pigeon"; date and place not given]

[Text] Due to an excess of journalistic zeal, Victor Hugo Vargas has headlined statements that I made to LA NACION in such a way that I appeared to be revealing the existence of a nonexistent army linked to my party.

What happened is that I told Vargas that I had eliminated a reference to an alleged army from a rough draft of a pamphlet I was preparing because I realized that such an alleged army was only the creation of baseless gossip. Victor Hugo's question was the result of a statement made by Humberto Vargas that was published that day by LA NACION. In that statement, Vargas himself notes that he had discovered that I had eliminated the charge from the rough draft. I don't know how the rough draft got to the hands of Humberto Vargas and I do not understand why he referred to it. I want to add that I have just read the editorial published today in LA NACION. I do not have time to respond to it the way I should because I am out of San Jose but I think it is necessary to make known the following: I have not said what has been attributed to me. Besides, if events had occurred as LA NACION claims, these events would have taken place during the period when I was Secretary General of the Popular Vanguard Party. Therefore, I make myself responsible for the alleged events. I am prepared to respond to any charge filed in a court of justice, as LA NACION suggests, or before any person or entity, who, on behalf of the democratic regime, may want to have an explanation or impose sanctions.

Manuel Mora Valverde

PVP'S MORA BROTHERS SEEK COMMITTEE REGISTRATION

PA212242 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Civil Registry director has forwarded to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal an appeal by Eduardo Mora Valverde regarding the registration of members of the Popular Vanguard Party's [PVP] Executive Committee. Eduardo Mora, Deputy Secretary General of the National Executive Committee, had asked that the Civil Registry revoke and annul the suspension [words indistinct] Ferreto Segura. The Civil Registry received the appeal yesterday. This has been interpreted by the Mora Valverde brothers as meaning that the members of the Executive Committee had been registered.

[Words indistinct] the Mora brothers will be able to participate in the coming elections under the name of the Popular Vanguard Party, and Ferreto's group would have to organize another party.

Eduardo Mora Valverde, the PVP's deputy secretary general, has reported that the three communist parties will unite for the next general elections. These are: the Popular Vanguard Party, the People's Revolutionary Movement, and the Costa Rican Socialist Party. The presidential candidate will not be leftist, but more moderate. The Mora brothers believe that 80 percent of the PVP members are on their side. The Executive Committee is composed of: Manuel Mora, president; Eduardo Mora, deputy secretary general; and Mario Solis, treasurer.

INACTION ON 'SECRET ARMY' CHARGE BEMOANED

PA211850 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 6 Mar 84 p 14-A

[Editorial: "The Passivity of the Attorney General"]

[Text] Yesterday's edition carried disturbing statements by Jorge Luis Villanueva, president of the legislative assembly, and by Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier [Social Christian Union president] about the charges made by Manuel Mora Valverde [Popular Vanguard Party president] that a covert leftist army is being created in our mountains and abroad.

The two men asked themselves who would be in charge of the investigation into these grave charges, leveled by people who know what they are talking about, and concluded that the issue is the domain not of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal but of the criminal courts.

It seems obvious that this case concerns the attorney general's office. Unfortunately, this organization -- which still, inexplicably, lacks an organic law -- has not been acting with the necessary thoroughness and speed, on this or almost any other issue. We suddenly find that the most important institution for the enforcement of justice is failing miserably.

What could be any worse for our country's institutions, its democracy, and for the Costa Ricans themselves than such serious charges as those leveled by Manuel Mora Valverde? This is not a political incident but a common crime, which should prompt action in accordance with the methods devised for such cases. From the very first moment the attorney general's office should have begun to work on the case, while keeping the Judicial Investigations Agency, OIJ, one of its branches, informed.

If the charges are true -- and we have no cause to doubt that they are, in view of their source -- the country is facing a serious threat. We must remember that many of the weapons that entered our country from Cuba during the anti-Somozist revolution remained here, having been distributed in ways that remain unclear. It has even been said, though we have no proof of this, that the Popular Vanguard Party received some of these weapons; but who has them now?

A charge such as this renders the tense situation that we are currently experiencing with our neighbor to the north even worse. Were the situation to deteriorate, and were we to find ourselves, God forbid, having to defend our territory and sovereignty, the existence of a secret pro-Sandinist army here would be fatal to our country's future.

This, then, is why we are alarmed at the sluggishness with which such issues are acted upon in Costa Rica, as well as at our unwarranted confidence and the relative inefficacy of our judicial system in cases that could be very grave indeed. If Mr Mora Valverde can prove his charge, he should be asked to do so. However, as long as the attorney general's office doesn't know what to do, and remains inactive and indifferent, even this small step will not be taken.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT MAGANA URGES POPULATION TO VOTE

PA240350 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Message delivered by President Alvaro Magana on 23 March; place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Salvadoran people, the day before yesterday the electoral campaign to elect the future government ended. The democratization process will climax on 25 March and will conclude with the transfer of power on 1 June. On a previous occasion I proudly said that no one in this world can teach us a lesson in democracy. We were born from the will of the people and we are willing to surrender to that will by giving power to the person chosen by the people.

The regime that we have described as a government open to progress, reflective, (?useful), understanding, and in favor of moderation in the exercise of power, has extended the bridge toward democracy. We gave our word, and now we have reached election day.

The purpose of this message is to ask the people to vote. Voting is the only solution to our dilemma. We have had authoritarian governments that led us to the chaos that we are overcoming through democracy. The alternative that the subversives offer is another dictatorship that would abolish the Army and replace it with the party's police. In a totalitarian regime this ends the participation of the people. To prevent the dangers of totalitarian and authoritarian systems, the best political philosophy seeks the solution of a democracy that guarantees the will of the people.

There are enough reasons to believe that the process will be pure. Another important factor is the climate of trust we are experiencing, which is better than the one experienced in 1982. On that occasion, the subversive had threatened to machine-gun the voters. The Salvadoran people challenged that threat, and there was no machine gun capable of stopping the election. Today the subversives have said that they will not hinder the electoral process through the use of violence. However, this abstention is not voluntary. They will not hinder the electoral process because they know that they can't fulfill their threat. They will not try to do so because they have realized that they can't do so.

The Armed Forces High Command has issued specific orders for strict neutrality to be observed, and the Armed Forces, with a high sense of professionalism, has abstained from participating in the electoral campaign because it is aware of the importance of its neutrality in the democratic process.

Under these conditions there must be massive voting in order to demonstrate before the world that we know how to rule ourselves and to show ourselves that the people are sovereign.

I want to deliver the power to you, to my people who will know to choose their future leaders responsibly. During these elections, the most important and decisive in the history of our homeland, I feel I have the right to ask the Salvadoran people: Let's all vote; let's all vote on 25 March. Thank you.

Reiterates Election's Importance

PA251711 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1621 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] President Dr Alvaro Magana has already shown up at (La Flor Blanca) National Stadium to exercise his right to vote, both as a citizen and as president of the Republic. Here is his brief statement for the Salvadoran people on the electoral process:

[Begin Magana recording] I wish to reiterate the invitation that I extended in my message on Friday: We must all vote. These elections are the most important in our country's history, and in the event of any sacrifice or discomfort the people should be understanding and patient. They must try to come to the voting centers so we may determine who will lead the nation. It is not only our future which is at stake, but that of the new generations as well. Thank you. [end recording]

DEFENSE MINISTER ON ARMED FORCES ELECTION STANCE

PA242214 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 24 Mar 84 p 17

["Text" of statement by Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova on national television network at 0300 GMT on 24 March, place not specified]

[Text] Salvadoran people: Aware of their great historic responsibility and the high significance of the electoral event on Sunday, 25 March, the Armed Forces wish to state the following:

1. The Armed Forces have drafted and have implemented the plans necessary to guarantee the security of all citizens in the voting booths, which the honorable Central Electoral Council [CCE] will install throughout the Republic.

2. The Armed Forces once again reiterate to our people and all countries of the world their absolute apolitical position and they want to state that they equally support all the candidates and that they will watch over so that the elections will be totally clean, honest, and free of any imposition.

3. The Armed Forces reiterate their resolute support for the CCE, in whom they fully trust, and they promise to guarantee that the results of the elections will be respected no matter what.

4. The Armed Forces issue a special invitation to the Salvadoran people so that just as they did on 28 March 1982, they will demonstrate the same democratic faith, civil passion, courage, and heroic will by casting their votes to elect the future president and vice president of the Republic.

5. The members of the Armed Forces are urged and ordered to comply with our laws and the orders issued by the high command which will not tolerate irresponsible deviations by any of its members. These deviations place in doubt the good name and prestige of the Armed Forces, especially at this time when the survival of our institution depends to a great extent on the continued support for our country's democratization process, to which we are all committed.

6. All members of the Armed Forces must provide full cooperation and the necessary facilities so that the observers who represent friendly countries and the members of the national and international press can carry out their mission. They will be the best witnesses of the development and honesty of our electoral process.

Comrades-in-arms: With our policy of resolutely supporting our country's democratization process we have won the right to ask for help and not alms -- to ask for advice and not impositions -- to be free and not vassals -- because nothing in the world is as valuable as our people's sacrifice and the blood shed by our soldiers.

Salvadoran people: This historic moment will not only serve to consolidate our democratic faith and the great desire to live in peace, but will show the world that we are people who deserve total recognition of the effort that together, people and Armed Forces, we are setting out to maintain our freedom, sovereignty and independence.

Let everyone know that the Salvadoran Armed Forces, honoring their sacred constitutional mission, will remain vigilant throughout the national territory so that all Salvadorans can safely cast their votes with full freedom and as their conscience dictates.

I ask God to illuminate the minds and hearts of all Salvadorans so that by exercising their right to vote, they will guarantee to themselves the most valuable of all freedoms: that of freely electing their rulers. Vote with faith in a better destiny for El Salvador, because the Armed Forces will respect and enforce respect for the Salvadoran people's decision.

Thank you very much.

REPORTAGE ON BALLOTING IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Election Begins in 'Tension'

PA251352 Paris AFP in Spanish 1335 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (AFP) -- The elections for president and vice president in El Salvador began this morning at 0700 (1300 GMT) amid a climate of tension in view of the threat of guerrilla actions. Last night some 10 power lines or electric installations were blown up cutting off power to the capital, eastern region, and part of the northern sector. However, the voters began to go to the polling places as soon as it was dawn. The 1.8 million Salvadorans of voting age can vote until 1600 (2200 GMT) in the areas that do not receive electric service, and until 1800 (2400 GMT) in the other areas -- which were not many this morning.

CCE Official: No Delay

PA251413 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1324 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The electoral colleges opened their polling places at 0700 this morning (1300 GMT) as scheduled despite the fact that a large part of El Salvador, including the capital, awakened without electricity today as a result of guerrilla sabotage of the national electricity network. Since early this morning thousands of citizens have crossed the Salvadoran capital on foot trying to get to the polling places because transportation was scarce when the polling places opened.

A spokesman for the Central Electoral Council (CCE) explained to ACAN-EFE this morning that the lack of electrical energy has not delayed the electoral process. "We had foreseen this possibility, and that is why we are equipped with special power plants." The voting will end at 1800 (2300 GMT) today, although in those places where there is no electric energy the polling places will close 2 hours earlier.

Poll Closed After 25 Hurt

PA251615 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1524 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpts] We are reporting directly from Ilopango, where 25 ballot boxes were installed in the Fabio Castillo School for today's elections. The voting began at 0730 with certain irregularities. For instance, 4 of the 25 ballot boxes that had been assigned to this voting center were missing. When the school's gate was opened so that the voters could enter, a large crowd rushed in, (?destroying) part of the gate, as a result of which over 25 people were injured. The soldiers charged with guarding this voting center had to fire into the air [47-second break in transmission] the ballots had not been sent to this place. In addition, the other voting boards have had problems due to the erroneous numbers assigned to them.

People have been in the streets since the early morning hours. As I said above, a large crowd tried to enter the school, forcing soldiers to shoot into the air in an effort to calm the large crowds rushing through the school's main gate. I repeat, more than 25 people were injured, several of them seriously, and they had to be aided by Red Cross personnel on the scene and taken to the nearest clinics.

At this time, 0900, the gate of the Fabio Castillo School in Ilopango has been closed again, and the voting has been suspended due to the large number of people waiting to vote and the fact that there are not enough guards present to control the large crowds that rush through the gate as soon as any attempt is made to open it. Everyone gets pushed around, and a terrible disorder is created, so the polling place in this school has been closed for now.

Voter Turnout 'Normal'

PA251653 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1548 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Shortly after 0900 (1500 GMT) electricity was restored in the Salvadoran capital, after more than 12 hours of being interrupted as a result of bombs placed by the guerrillas. Also, the turnout of voters is normal, although in some cases ballot boxes in some sectors of the city were stolen, taking advantage of the blackout. Amateur radio stations [radiofoniocas] began their broadcasts shortly after electricity was reestablished and, according to reports from the Central Electoral Council, there have been some incidents, because in some polling places voting was held up in view of the long lines and the lack of resources at the disposal of officials at the polling places. Today somewhat more 2.5 million Salvadoran citizens will elect the new president of the Republic, whose term will extend until 1989.

Guerrillas Disrupt Voting

PA251655 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1558 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Our news department has learned that guerrilla groups have reached the locality of Chinameca, firing into the air and dispersing the voters. For this reason, the streets of Chinameca are now deserted, as the guerrillas arrived to prevent the voting, firing shots and dispersing the people. According to another report received at 1400 from El Triunfo, Usulutan Department, the guerrillas arrived and broke up all the ballot boxes that the voting boards were going to use there. Meanwhile, back in Chinameca, in San Miguel Department, the guerrillas are currently trying to take the ballot boxes away. The guerrilla commanders and the voting board members are arguing and shouting at each other. From another quarter, clashes are currently taking place near Jucuapa. We repeat, there are clashes near Jucuapa, and this poses difficulties for the voters.

Santa Rosa de Lima reports problems because the ballot boxes have not yet arrived, they are on their way. In Yayantique some 5,000 people are still waiting at 0900. The voters are waiting for the ballot boxes. There have been problems in sending ballot boxes to these places because they cannot be sent in helicopters, only by land, because the helicopters are being used elsewhere.

San Alejo reports no problems. Other places that have not come up against any problems include Alegria, Berlin, Usulutan, San Francisco Gotera, (?Chilanga), and the departmental capital of La Union. We have already reported problems in Chinameca. In Santiago de Maria all is normal. Yayantique awaits its ballot boxes, and in Jiquilisco and San Alejo all is normal.

Chinameca Voting Suspended

PA251817 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1747 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports we are receiving from Chinameca, approximately 25 km east of the City of San Miguel, elections have been suspended there because of the serious clashes that have been taking place since early this morning.

According to reports from civilian sources, fighting began at 0700 on the outskirts of Chinameca, which has a population of 5,000. According to the sources, 3d Infantry Brigade troops based in that city are providing protection to the townspeople. There have been no reports on casualties. It has been reported that the fighting intermittently dies down and flares up.

Council Responds to Report

PA260109 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 2350 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] We have a report from the Central Electoral Council [CCE] with regard to reports that people can vote anywhere with just their identification cards: Here is the report from the CCE:

[Begin unidentified official recording] This is a bulletin for YSU from the CCE. Only the CCE will issue official information on the electoral process. In this regard, the Government of the Republic reiterates that the CCE is the only authority that can issue official information on the electoral process that culminated today, 25 March. This clarification is being issued in view of a report broadcast by a local radio station regarding the voting procedure. Therefore, it is reiterated that any news on today's elections will only be official if it comes from the CCE, since it is the supreme electoral body. [end recording]

Voting Ends at 1800

PA260102 Paris AFP in Spanish 0037 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (AFP) -- The voting for a president and vice president of El Salvador closed at 1800 (0000 GMT) throughout the country, sources of the Central Electoral Council (CCE) have confirmed. The unofficial count of the first three polls in the national gymnasium in San Salvador shows the following figures from a total of 1,500 votes: The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] won 603, the extreme rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) won 480, the National Conciliation Party (PCN) won 208, and 209 votes were distributed among the other five minor parties.

According to these figures, which cannot be interpreted as a definite trend, the PDC won 40 percent of the votes (far from the 50 percent needed to win in this election), ARENA won 32 percent, and the PCN won 14 percent. The CCE press center has not announced when the first official results will be released, although it was unofficially indicated that "we hope that it will be before 2200 local time."

At the last minute it was authorized that people in the capital could vote in any polling place without regard to what was established in the electoral registry and electoral law.

COL MONTEROSA DISCUSSES ELECTION SECURITY

PA232153 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Interview with Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, by the press director of network station Radio Chaparrastique on 22 March -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Press director] Colonel, how do you view the act of sabotage against the airplane at El Obrajuelo Airport?

[Monterrosa] It is one of the clearest indications of the nature of subversion, of terrorism in this country. The terrorists are blatantly showing their modus operandi in the face of the upcoming elections of 25 March. These elections represent an opportunity, being provided by this government, that we as Armed Forces are trying to guarantee as much as possible so that the people can continue to live in a democratic system and so that the people can continue to exercise the true power that should exist in this country, through elections.

[Press director] Let us discuss the particulars. It has been rumored in the eastern section that the Sandinists are going to get involved, that they have sent two Sandinist units to participate in actions against the voters.

[Monterrosa] It would not be surprising if what you said were true. It would be strange if only such a few units were mentioned. They always talk in large numbers. Any action, any cooperation, any support [does not complete sentence]. It has been very clear to us that Nicaragua has firmly supported the Salvadoran guerrillas. Unfortunately, those individuals -- and this is not seen by our mistaken brothers -- receive the best privileges, and the fighters, those who are slugging away, are the ones who are in the worst situation. They get no food; once in a while they are given tortillas with beans. They are the ones who have to walk many miles. Therefore, to you misguided Salvadorans who are involved in those activities, I say you should listen to an honest, honorable person and note the difference in how you are treated compared to those foreigners who are accompanying you. Go back to your homes. This is good advice to you and your relatives.

[Press director] Colonel, how are things in Jucuapa, [name indistinct] Sesori, San Gerardo and Carolina regarding the elections? Will it be possibile to vote there?

[Monterrosa] The troops are there and ready.

[Press director] That is true in Guadalupe. We have heard that a large group of guerrilas were gathered in Sesori.

[Monterrosa] Well, yesterday we put them to flight and pursued them up to Chapeltique. I understand that they went to Sesori. They might be in the area around Sesori, but as far as that is concerned, I do not care to discuss the action we will take.

[Press director] Of course. We heard that there were problems on the Pan-American Highway.

[Monterrosa] Yes, some individuals were killed on Saturday as they were in the process of setting up blockades, as they have tried to do on other occasions. Seven people were killed, including a North American woman who was heading north.

On Sunday afternoon they were doing the same thing, without realizing that my men were advancing from the north, and they were taken by surprise. Three of them fled in a vehicle on the highway between El Triunfo and Sesori. One of the three was killed, as were four others later. I do not know how many others were injured.

Army Helps Early Voting

PA251925 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1815 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Carlos Ernesto Ulloa interview with Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, Commander of the Army's 3d Brigade, in San Miguel -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Monterrosa] Thank you YSU. This is a very professional radio station that is very much heard throughout the country. I admire this radio station because it is very active. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to send greetings to the Salvadoran people and to urge them to follow the example of San Miguel, which is going to the polls. This is a right, this is part of the liberties that we enjoy in this democratic system: the right to vote and to elect our future representatives.

I want to say that I have already visited some voting tables. There are anomalies in some of them, but these anomalies have to do mostly with organizational problems. Apparently not enough work was done in this regard in the department. There were problems with the ballot boxes in Ciudad Barrios. They have not been taken there yet. I am going to have to do this personally. I made some vehicles available so that the boxes could be taken there, but this has not been done yet.

The [words indistinct] are already on their way. I have been told that they have not been taken to Santa Rosa de Lima yet. Last night I spoke with the commander of La Union Department, and he told me that he also was having problems with representatives of the department electoral board because those people are used to doing nothing, we could say. They always want the Armed Forces to do all their work for them. We have somehow forced the electoral board people of San Miguel Department to work. They have done some work; however, we still have to give them a push -- otherwise, we are not going to make it. I also want to say that there are many people on the streets with the desire, as good Salvadorans, to vote and elect our future representatives.

[Ulloa] Colonel Monterrosa, as you said at the beginning of the interview that there has been some lack of organization. The people of San Miguel as a whole, practically, have gone to vote. But it has happened that some officials have not shown up with the keys to where the ballot boxes are kept. The people, with a good patriotic desire to vote, are still waiting patiently to vote and secure the peace we want. What can you tell us in this regard, Col Monterrosa?

[Monterrosa] I believe we have gone past the most critical moment -- last night -- when we received serious threats and we had information that the rebels had made extensive preparations to attack San Miguel. I believe that the activities that we carried out in the past few days plus the security measures we adopted last night have been successful. We had been under pressure. On 10 March we received information that they wanted to damage one of the country's dams -- we don't know which. We can say that the activities carried out by the persons in charge of the dams prevented any attack.

[Ulloa] What can you tell us about the power outage in the eastern region?

[Monterrosa] [Words indistinct] apparently the towers problem was solved last night. We worked until 2000, and power was back at approximately 2030. Later power went out again. The San Salvador problem originated at the San Lorenzo dam. This is being checked right now, and we will see what happens.

[Ulloa] [Words indistinct] that electric service will be reestablished today?

[Monterrosa] I believe so, that is, if it is a problem that can be solved by the technicians or by us.

[Ulloa] Thank you, Colonel. This has been an interview with the commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, Col Monterrosa, who will make a final statement for our listeners.

[Monterrosa] I just want to thank you and YSU, and to again urge the Salvadoran people to vote and elect their future representatives.

[Ulloa] Thank you, Colonel, and good luck.

[Monterrosa] Thank you.

CCE OFFICIAL EXPLAINS VOTE COUNTING SYSTEM

PA251303 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 Mar 84 pp 4, 47

[Text] The vote counting for the presidential election will begin at 1800 on Sunday by turning the computer off and then on in the presence of computer technicians from all the parties. Computer and systems engineer Norman Bojorquez, of the Central Electoral Council, CCE, has explained that the final and official vote counting process will begin at 1800 on Sunday, 25 March, at the Vote Counting Center, where a document will be signed by each of the computer technicians accredited by the contending parties certifying Bojorquez' impartiality in the process and the fact that the computer was turned off and then on in their presence.

It was explained at the CCE that the purpose of turning the computer off and on is to clear the computer's system and then activate the programs that will be used in the vote-counting process. Most important, it was stressed, the programs that will be used will be displayed to demonstrate that these are the correct ones and that there are no programs foreign to the process. All files, tables, and records will be erased from the discs and memories to show that all the figures will start at zero, and that the results contained in subsequent reports will be printed in the manner in which they were entered into the computer.

Bojorquez explained that each time a report on election returns is entered into the computer, data on the total accumulated figures per department, per municipality, and per poll will be generated. These data will be submitted to the press center and will be directly televised nationwide by television Channel 10 within 1 minute after each report is turned in.

Each of the technicians accredited by the contending parties will be assigned a computer terminal for entering, controlling, reviewing, and supervising the data input, counting, and listing. Finally, it was explained that the CCE will have its own official count, done simultaneously with the parties, as a means of reviewing and controlling the 25 March elections.

PDC'S CANDIDATE DUARTE CHARGES PLOT TO KILL HIM

PA251951 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1742 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Washington, 25 Mar (EFE) -- Jose Napoleon Duarte, Christian Democratic Party [PDC] presidential candidate in the Salvadoran elections, today charged that a commando organized in Cuba wants to kill him. In an interview with the CBS Television Network, recorded in a secret place where Duarte sought refuge under strong protection yesterday, the Salvadoran candidate said that the commando, made up of 17 persons, traveled to Nicaragua in the past few days and is now trying to enter and has penetrated El Salvador.

The objective of the commando, organized in Cuba, is to carry out a "suicidal attempt to assassinate me," he declared. He noted that "obviously" it is an attempt by the left wing to eliminate him. He said that he learned of the death threat against his life yesterday (Saturday) at approximately 0600. For that reason, he took refugee in a secret place, he added without giving further details.

PDC Secretary Confirms Threat

PA252015 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1937 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] of El Salvador, confirmed to ACAN-EFE at midday today the existence of death threats against PDC presidential candidate Jose Napoleon Duarte. Rey Prendes, who declined to go into details on the subject, said that all the necessary precautions have been taken, and that Duarte is "in a secret place."

However, Jose Napoleon Duarte appeared in public this morning at the Republic of Ecuador School in the Modelo neighborhood of this capital to cast his vote, accompanied by his family. The PDC secretary general added that he is not authorized to provide information on these threats, but according to wire dispatches from Washington, a commando trained in Cuba wants to assassinate Duarte.

Political circles of this capital were skeptical about the report, which they termed "electoral propaganda" and an "image campaign" before the U.S. public. Rey Prendes told ACAN-EFE that at the end of the electoral process the PDC plans to hold a press conference, although he did not indicate whether the presidential candidate would attend. The PDC secretary general termed the holding of the elections "disastrous" thus far, due to a "lack of organization of the Central Electoral Council."

DUARTE DISCUSSES DEATH SQUADS, COUP RUMORS

AU231337 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 23 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] San Salvador -- Jose Napoleon Duarte, Christian Democratic Presidential candidate in El Salvador, sees no difficulty in coping with the problem of the extreme-right death squadrons in the event of his election victory next Sunday. In an interview with DIE PRESSE correspondent Georg Possaner, he claimed to "know exactly where the active participants [Akteure] are to be found." The former junta chief categorically ruled out negotiations on sharing power with the leftist rebels. He still keeps the door open, however, for a dialogue with the leader of the political branch of the left, Guillermo Ungo.

Unlike the Washington government, Duarte sees the greatest evil neither in the death squadrons nor in the subversive terror of the left. In his opinion, the majority of the 40,000 political casualties fell victim to the "cultural violence" inherent in society. In every little village, he said, there is a power group which takes the liberty to arbitrarily kill. This must be tackled first, Duarte said, and then the institutionalized terror of the Army and Armed Forces must be dealt with. In reply to the question of why this was not done between 1980 and 1982, when he was in power, Duarte pointed out that at that time he was merely one of four junta members. As elected president, however, he would have the mandate of the people and thus authority.

His readiness for a dialogue with the left, the land expropriations, and the nationalization of banks and foreign trade have made Duarte unacceptable in the eyes of many. "If Ungo were only to believe that we will make room for all political groups in this country and that we will include them in the democratic process, this would be the best way to establish peace," Duarte said.

The Christian Democrat shrugs off rumors that a coup would be unavoidable after a Duarte victory: "This is unlikely at this time." A coup would drive the disappointed people into the hands of the left and would bring the rebels to power Moreover, the Army knows that it cannot survive without outside aid for any length of time. Finally, the Army has promised, according to Duarte, to respect the outcome of the election.

Duarte avoided answering the specific question of whether as president he would purge the Army of violent elements, but he left no doubt about the fact that he would carry out certain "regroupings."

RIGHTS GROUP CHARGES REBELS SEIZE IDENTITY CARDS

PA240456 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Mar 84 p 48

[Paid advertisement by the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador]

[Text] The Human Rights Commission of El Salvador reports that the FMLN-FDR is taking away personal identification cards from people.

1. As the people already know, members of the FMLN-FDR terrorist group are stopping buses and other vehicles, mainly in rural areas, to take the people's belongings, especially their personal identification cards. This is another violation of human rights, which harms the people materially, physically, and emotionally. According to reports from residents of these rural areas, the terrorists are threatening and harassing the people to cause them not to vote on 25 March elections. They hope to obstruct this democratic and rational system, so that the only way to reach power is through violence.

2. The Human Rights Commission of El Salvador calls on the Salvadoran people to ask them to think, to maintain self-control, and to avoid allowing themselves to be intimidated. If they do not, they could lose the right to vote and to decide their own fate, because the people's will is the foundation of a government's authority and this will can only be expressed by participation in free elections. The Human Rights Commission of El Salvador wishes to point out that the seizure of personal identification cards by the use of force is:

a) A violation of each citizen's political rights.

b) An obstruction of the pacification and democratization process that the Salvadoran people are carrying out.

c) A refusal by FMLN-FDR leaders to comply with the promise to respect the people's will and to allow them to peacefully exercise their right to participate in the 25 March elections.

3. Because things have reached such an extreme of disrespect and because there is such a lack of integrity, the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador strongly rejects and condemns the attempts to sway the Salvadoran people and this criminal attempt on the people's sovereign right to elect their representatives in order to peacefully save the country and aid its recovery.

CDHES: ELECTION TO JUSTIFY U.S. INTERVENTION

PA250404 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1900 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Commentary of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission program "Before the National Conscience": "Elections: An Instrument of Democracy or the Tool to Justify Repression and Intervention?"]

[Text] The Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, CDHES, wishes to express to the general public and the individual conscience of each Salvadoran:

Our institution believes that the real concept of an election constitutes the highest expression and aspiration of democracy because it is the instrument by which human beings choose their leaders and the government programs by which they will be ruled. The electoral processes are the essence of democracy and we support these unconditionally.

However, the elections in El Salvador are not an exercise in democracy. They are intended to justify a government policy of destruction, to facilitate an open intervention by the United States, and to attempt to improve the image of the Salvadoran Government by means of an alleged democratization process in which the election is the main device through which the government can secure economic and military assistance.

Our institution can do nothing but categorically reject an election of this sort. In El Salvador, we are experts in electoral frauds because our electoral processes are characterized by imposition and deceit. The masses are once again being manipulated and deceived. The political parties' campaigns are characterized by demagoguery and ridiculous positions. The Salvadoran people cannot believe in the language of peace and democracy of those political parties because they represent those economic sectors of El Salvador which promote social injustice, war, and the absence of democracy, and because they share the responsibility for the violation of human rights and for the economic, social, and legal crisis, because they have a share in the government of national unity.

The parties are only different in the way that they solve some economic and social problems and in the way they do away with their true political rival, the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front]. However, their goals are essentially the same and those goals will never be in benefit of the Salvadoran people.

The electoral process is taking place within the framework of a civil war. The other side, which represents an important political and military force, is excluded from it. An overall solution to the Salvadoran problem cannot be reached at a time when the popular interests are being defined. We must keep in mind that the issues of the last campaign, the reforms, particularly the agrarian reform, were forgotten, and that the national solution, which was the 1982 election, failed.

The U.S. pressure to hold this election despite the lack of adequate conditions is undeniable. Let us keep in mind the fact that when the electoral campaign was already in its second month, there was still no electoral [as heard], much less electoral lists, and that only a few weeks ago it was announced that the electoral lists did indeed exist. The U.S. Government prefers a candidate that can really adjust to the counterinsurgency plan, that appears to have a political, economic, and military platform -- and we say appear because deep down, Ronald Reagan believes that only war can guarantee the economic and military survival of the Salvadoran Government.

Therefore, the election responds to the need that the United States has to demonstrate that there is a democratization process in El Salvador, so as to facilitate its shameless and open intervention. In this sense, the election is an instrument of oppression and of repression.

ESA ISSUES WARNING AGAINST INTERFERENCE IN VOTE

PA242233 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2100 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] We have a report from the members of the Secret Anticommunist Army ESA, stating that they are responsible for an attack last night on the home of Dr Cuchilla [not further identified]. The group referred to a communique they sent to Cadena Sonora that states the following:

[Begin ESA recording] The National Liberation Party [PLN] and its armed branch, ESA, report to the Salvadoran people that:

1. That in response to the wave of violence unleashed by the communist guerrillas directed by the terrorists of the FMLN and the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front], we have been forced to place on alert the commandos of our glorious ESA, who are prepared to repel any communist aggression. Since Thursday, 22 March, we have begun the campaign called "Support of the Electoral Process."

ESA also warns the United States to respect the will of the Salvadoran people by respecting the triumph of the political party that wins the elections of 25 March.

2. As of this moment, we condemn all members of the FMLN and the FDR caught disrupting the elections, or those who collaborate with them. The sentences range from serious warnings to the death penalty.

3. We warn that bad Salvadorans will suffer the same fate, as well as foreigners who sell themselves to the Gringos with injurious interests to our fatherland, whoever they may be, regardless of their social, economic, or professional status.

4. The United States will try to target its aid of $93 million to the imposition of its will on our Armed Forces. It is very important that we do not sell overselves, as they expect. Either they respect the people's will or suffer the consequences.

Long live El Salvador. We struggle yesterday, today, tomorrow and always.

El Salvador, 23 March 1984

Signed by Commander Aquiles Baires, chief of staff of the PLN and ESA

Signed by Commander Adolfo Torres, chief of the ESA Political Commission

Signed by Commander Jorge Palomo, commander of the ESA Military Commission

MILITARY ACTIVITY REPORTED AROUND COUNTRY

Ambush Kills 30 Troops

PA242043 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Ramiro Paredes report -- live relay from San Vicente]

[Excerpts] Judicial sources today told YSU that the results of a clash following an extremist ambush between 0700 and 0800 today at the place known as (Los Moros), on km 27 of the road linking San Vicente with Tecoluca and the canton of (El Arco), in the same jurisdiction, are 30 troops and 2 unidentified persons dead, and an unspecified number of rebel casualties. According to the report, a patrol from the 2d Company of the 3d Battalion in Tejuacan, from the 5th Infantry Brigade stationed here, was on patrol duty at (Los Moros), where the extremists ambushed them. A heavy fire-fight ensued, with the noted results. Based on the examination made by Manuel de Jesus Angulo Castillo, the first justice of the peace, and Dr Carlos Rene Angulo, the medical examiner, all of the bodies had been struck by rounds from high-caliber weapons. At the time of this report, the number of rebel casualties had not been given, because, it was said, sporadic shooting was still going on and a search had been launched in the area, with support from the Salvadoran Air Force.

FMLN: 'Strong Clashes'

PA242006 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Our people's army is currently carrying out a military action on the road from Zacatecoluca to San Vicente. We repeat, at this moment we are fighting the regime's troops of the Cazadores Battalion on the road that connects the capitals of La Paz and San Vicente Departments. Our army is fighting at this very moment in the entire area of (El Cumbo) Hill, the El Negro Bridge, and the slopes of Chichontepec Volcano. According to preliminary reports, our forces have seized arms and supplies. Our war correspondent on the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front has indicated that strong clashes are taking place on the road from Zacatecoluca to San Vicente, and that our force's fighting spirit is high.

Fighting in San Vicente

PA251330 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Initial reports from the Anatasio Aquino Paracentral Front indicate that at 0625 today, 24 March, our FMLN forces in San Vicente Department staged a military operation against the Cazadores Battalions trained by U.S. advisers.

Fighting took place at km 70 of the road leading from San Vincente to Zacatecoluca, in (El Cumbo) Hill, and in (Puente Negro), on the sides of the Chichontepec Volcano.

Attention: As a result of the successful flow dealt by the FMLN against a Cazadores Battalion, we seized the following U.S.-made war materiel: 3 M-60 machine guns, a 90-mm cannon, a 60-mm mortar, 30 M-16 rifles, and 3 PRC-77 military radios. In these clashes we killed 14 of the puppet army's troops and captured 16 of the dictatorship's soldiers.

FMLN Reports Sabotage

PA251705 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Here is another report from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front [words indistinct] brigades of the Rafael Aguinada Carranza Battalion established control over the important road leading from San Rafael Cedros to Ilobasco and carried out various political activities involving the local people. According to another report from that zone, FMLN sapper units sabotaged the electrical lines that run from the 5 November Dam to (El Atachin) substation, leaving many of the central departments without power for several hours.

La Union, San Miguel Clashes

PA251557 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Fighting has been taking place in eastern El Salvador. As we have already reported, FMLN forces attacked enemy patrols on Friday as they moved near Anamoros, in the northern part of La Union Department, inflicting several casualties on the dictatorship's troops. The fighting lasted all morning, and the enemy forces were forced to request reinforcements. The enemy forces in Nueva Esparta and (Jiquilique) had to abandon those positions.

We have also reported the fighting that took place Friday in the northern part of San Miguel Department between our units and forces of the Cuscatlan and Cazadores Battalions in (El Reten), on the turnoff to Carolina, north of Cuidad Barrios, where our forces killed two soldiers and injured three others.

According to the reports received today, 24 March, heavy fighting with (?Cazadores) troops took place today in the same area north of Cuidad Barrios.

Attention now to the reports we are receiving from the northern zone of San Miguel Department: Attention: Forces of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] dislodged the Cazadores Battalion of the 3d Infantry Brigade at the turnoff to Carolina, north of Cuidad Barrios. According to the report, the BRAZ forces dislodged this battalion, making it flee toward Cuidad Barrios carrying eight wounded soldiers with them.

FMLN Attacks Microwave Station

PA251721 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Attention: The FMLN has attacked the microwave complex in (Pacayal), an important national and international communications center. Pay attention to this report on the sabotage of this important microwave station, only a few kilometers away from the City of San Miguel.

Today, 24 March, forces of the FMLN's Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade sabotaged the El Pacuyal microwave station in shooting heavy machine gun fire at the microwave antennas. We have learned that as a result of this sabotage, telephone communications in the eastern zone have been affected. This is the first report we have received on this sabotage.

Rebels Sabotage Electricity

PA251319 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1302 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran capital and its neighboring areas have awakened without electricity in the wake of many bombs exploded during the night by the guerrillas. The citizens-band organization (ham operators) reported that they had heard more than 30 explosions in the capital and neighboring townships. At this time no radio station is operating due to the sabotage staged by the guerrillas during the early hours of Sunday morning.

Army Reports Intense Clashes

PA251742 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1640 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Throughout the early morning hours clashes have continued between Army units and guerrilla groups in different parts of the country, reliable sources have informed ACAN-EFE.

The most intense clashes are taking place at this moment, after 7 hours of fighting, in the northern part of San Vincente Department, where a guerrilla group tried to stage a raid on the city of Santa Clara (10,000 inhabitants), located 65 km from this capital. The 5th Infantry Brigade garrison, based in Santa Clara, repelled the attack by the FMLN members, while awaiting the arrival of reinforcement troops that arrived early this morning. At 1000 (1600 GMT) Army troops and guerrilla groups were locked in combat in the vicinity of this township. No specific information has been reported on the casualties on either side.

North of Santa Clara, the FMLN has an important bastion, located in the hills of San Pedro, where there are camps of the People's Liberation Forces (FPL), one of the guerrilla groups.

Meanwhile, Colonel Carlos Rivas, commander of Military Detachment No 2 of Cabanas Department in the central part of the country, told ACAN-EFE that his troops waged fierce clashes with the rebels from 0200 (0800 GMT) until 0800 (1400 GMT).

A clash took place in the Cabanas Department city of Tejutepeque, which has 8,000 inhabitants and is 60 km from San Salvador, when an FMLN group tried to move into the urban sector. Troops of military Detachment No 2 managed to control the situation after 6 hours of fierce fighting, but the number of casualties is not known.

A guerrilla group was deployed early this morning on the Pan-American Highway near El Triunfo, preventing the flow of vehicles and the access of the people who were trying to exercise their right to vote.

Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, told ACAN-EFE on the telephone that several Army units left this morning from San Miguel, the capital of San Miguel Department, 80 km from El Triunfo, to engage the rebels.

In the past few hours the guerrillas have exploded more than 30 bombs, mainly at the electric towers and installations of San Salvador and neighboring areas, leaving the capital without electricity for more than 12 hours.

FMLN Claims POW's

PA252023 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpts] At 0200 this morning several vanguard unit battalions and the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza Group attacked and defeated the Cazadores troops of Detachment No 2 in Cabanas, who were stationed in Tejutepeque [passage indistinct] clashes early this morning in Cabanas Department.

Pay close attention: We have last-minute information about the weapons seized from the dictatorship's army during this morning's clashes in Cabanas Department. Heavy fighting is currently taking place. We are the armed people, and we are determined to win. Late last year in Tejutepeque our vanguard units recovered a 120-mm cannon and many weapons and ammunition. (?Today), 25 March, we have again shown up in Tejutepeque [passage indistinct] Cabanas. We have recovered 35 U.S.-made M-16 rifles, 2 M-60 machine guns, 2 M-79 grenade launchers, and 2 PRC-77 radios.

In addition, 32 troops of the Cazadores Battalion trained by U.S. advisers in their famous antiguerrilla tactics have been taken prisoner of war by our vanguard units.

[Words indistinct] We are calling on the relatives and friends of the Cazadores Battalion troops of Detachment No 2 in Cabanas. We urge them to listen attentively to this station so they can learn the time at which [words indistinct] are released. To the relatives of these soldiers, we reassert our humanitarian policy marked by absolute respect for [passage indistinct].

Actions in Eastern Region

PA252142 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2055 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Attention Salvadoran people. Radio Venceremos will now broadcast important reports on the situation in eastern El Salvador. As we have reported, the dictatorship's army, aware that the electoral farce means the continuation and the increase of military aid, concentrated its main military efforts in eastern El Salvador to guarantee the electoral farce. The dictatorship's forces have concentrated in eastern El Salvador the following battalions: the Arce Battalion, the Belloso Battalion, forces of the Atlacatl, Atonal, and Morazan Battalions, the Lenca Battalion, the Cuscatlan Battalion, the Ponce Battalion, the Lempa Battalion, the Conchagua Battalion, the Cavalry Battalion, troops of the 6th and 3d Brigade, and units of the security forces.

Aware that the electoral farce means the continuation and increase of the U.S. military aid to the Army, the dictatorship and its genocidal forces have carried out a tactic of constant movement in eastern El Salvador to try to halt the activities of the FMLN. All this was useless, because the electoral farce has found its greatest obstacles in eastern El Salvador as a result of the military activities by our people, who like in any other day of combat have advanced, hit, and worn out the genocidal forces.

Colonel Domingo Monterrosa has failed to achieve the objectives that the U.S. advisers had given him. They were to maintain control of the situation in eastern El Salvador with all those battalions. Although Domingo Monterrosa has been the military chief who has received the largest number of battalions and supplies during this time, he has experienced the greatest number of failures.

Attention. Today, 25 March, forces of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] have staged simultaneous attacks on the following positions of the dictatorship's army. Today, Sunday, the BRAZ has staged simultaneous attacks on the following army positions in eastern El Salvador: Anamoros, Sociedad, Ciudad Barrios, Osicala, El Triunfo, Jucuapa, Chinameca, San Jorge, San Rafael Oriente, and Chapeltique. Attacks have also been carried out against enemy positions in the City of San Miguel and Santa Rosa de Lima.

Despite the huge concentration of enemy military units in eastern El Salvador, the FMLN forces have carried out actions and erected barricades on the main roads of the east: the Coastal Highway, the Pan-American Highway, and the military road. In these roads, our forces have clashed with the troops of the puppet army.

Here is a report from San Miguel: As a result of our forces' attacks on enemy positions in the City of San Miguel, our forces inflicted many wounded on Domingo Monterrosa's troops. They also inflicted several wounded on the crew of a helicopter that had to withdraw from the area due to the revolutonary fire.

Communications Station Hit

PA252143 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2100 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Amid the huge deployment of enemy battalions, the FMLN forces today attacked the La Torrecilla communications station in Bolivar, La Union Department, damaging the installations. We repeat. Today, Sunday, amid the concentration of enemy battalions turned over to useless Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, FMLN forces attacked and damaged the important communications station of La Torrecilla in Bolivar, La Union Department. It is located a few kilometers from the City of San Miguel. This attack, along with yesterday's attack on the El Pacayal microwave station, has been a hard blow on the dictatorhsip's communications.

FMLN Attacks in San Vicente

PA252252 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Savador 2145 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos will now report on another victory of the FMLN in San Vicente Department. These are the results of the fighting with units of the (Teguacan) Battalion on the road between San Vicente and Zacatecoluca in the positions on Cerro (El Cumbo) and the Negro Bridge. In these actions, on the slopes of the Chichontepec Volcano in San Vicente Department, our revolutionary forces seized the following war materiel from the dictatorship: 40 U.S. M-16 rifles, 3 U.S. M-60 machine guns, 1 U.S. 90mm cannon with 10 shells that we will be happy to return to the dictatorship, 1 60 mm mortar, 3 PRC-77 military communications radios, 15,000 5.56-caliber cartridges, and 3,000 7.62-caliber cartridges. In these battles, we inflicted more than 30 casualties on the dictatorship's (Teguacan) Battalion. The dead include two lieutenants, two sergeants, and one corporal. In this action in Cerro (El Cumbo) and Negro Bridge we captured 16 soldiers of the (Teguacan) Battalion.

This attack on the dictatorship's forces in San Vicente took place at the same time the Army positions in the Jiboa sugar mill were attacked with artillery and mortar fire. In these actions, our forces repelled the reinforcements sent by the dictatorship. This victory in San Vicente Department and the victory in Tejutepeque, Cabanas Department, are the real expression of people who rise up against foreign intervention. These victories show the Salvadoran people's unyielding determination to continue to fight without respite against illiteracy, hunger, poverty, the miserable living conditions of the working class, the death squads, and above all for the sovereignty and dignity of people who deserve to win, who will win.

FMLN'S EDUARDO CALLES REJECTS ELECTION

PA250430 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] FMLN-FDR leader Eduardo Calles has said in Managua that the elections in El Salvador are no solution to the crisis that the Salvadoran people are experiencing. Calles pointed out that there is no overall electoral registry for these elections, that more than 90 of the country's 260 municipalities in the country have no registry, that a large part of the country is controlled by the revolutionary forces, and that almost 800,000 citizens have sought refuge in other countries.

[Begin Calles recording] I must repeat, the way that these elections have been set up, without participation by our fronts, they are a long way from being a solution to the crisis in our country. In truth, these elections were not prepared with this goal in mind. They are, in fact, part of the Reagan administration's political-military plan, and as such, they are simply an attempt to cover up the determination to find a military solution for our country's crisis. The Regan administration, the Salvadoran Government, and the Armed Forces high command stubbornly continue their search for a military solution to our people's crisis. They are determined to annihilate the Salvadoran revolutionary forces. Nevertheless, all of the enemy's military solutions and political maneuvers have been defeated by our revolutionary force.

Within this context of war, and without our fronts' participation, it is increasingly obvious that these elections are simply a weak maneuver. The data on the territory that is controlled by the revolutonary forces is well known to you. [end recording]

VENCEREMOS URGES PEOPLE TO REJECT ELECTION

PA251509 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] When Simon Bolivar said that the United States was destined to chain us to oppression in the name of freedom, he had a clear picture of the development of that country's neocolonialist interests. Once again the American groups in power -- allegedly in defense of freedom and democracy -- are trying to maintain oppression and injustice in El Salvador by means of an election that is merely the dirty side of Reagan's interventionist military plans.

Salvadorans: We are taking up weapons in an unyielding manner to confront the foreign power that seeks to perpetuate forever the miserable living conditions of our workers and to preserve poverty, injustice, terror and oppression in El Salvador.

Salvadorans: Our unconcealable advances, the weapons seized from the enemy, the one-fifth of our homeland under FMLN control, and our determination to be free provide us today with a real chance of achieving victory; and if this victory is to be achieved over the ruins of an invading army, we are ready, we are prepared for that victory.

Worker, peasant, student, teacher, professional, Salvadoran woman: The size of the controlled territories and the dozens of towns that are now under our control provide you with the chance of joining our ranks in these territories where a new society is being built. A trench of dignity awaits you here, in the face of the oppressors and those who, on behalf of freedom, today bring bombs and murderous machine guns and soil our paradise with their warplanes.

Democracy cannot be bought with dollars; it is achieved through the people's combat.

No to the elections! Yes to the popular war!

FMLN LISTS TOWNS WITH 'NO ELECTORAL FARCE'

PA252223 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2115 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Attention, Radio Venceremos will now report on the towns in Eastern El Salvador where there have been no elections because of the military actions being carried out in the eastern region where the popular war has not been halted, and neither have the efforts to prevent imperialism from developing its military plans.

Attention, there have been no elections in the following towns in La Union Department: Poloros, Anamoros, Lislique, El Sauce, Concepcion de Oriente, and Nueva Esparta.

These are the towns in Morazan Department where U.S. imperialism did not hold elections: Corinto, Sociedad, Perquin, Joateca, Arambala, San Fernando, San Isidro, San Simon, Cacaopera, Jocoaitique, Meanguera, El Rosario, Torola, Gualococti, Guatajiagua, Yamabal, Sensembra, Jocoro, Osicala, Delicias de Concepcion, and Yoloaiquin. These are the towns in Morazan where despite all the efforts of the dictatorship and the concentration of battalions in eastern El Salvador, there were no elections.

Attention, here is the list of the towns in San Miguel Department where Domingo Monterrosa could not guarantee to the U.S. advisers the holding of these elections, which signify greater intervention. These are the towns in San Miguel Department where there was no electoral farce: San Antonio, Carolina, San Luis, San Gerardo, Nuevo Eden de San Juan, Sesori, Lolotique, Ciudad Barrios, Chinameca, Nueva Guadalupe, Chirilagua, San Jorge, and San Rafael Oriente. These are the towns in San Miguel Department where despite Monterrosa's efforts, there was no electoral farce.

Attention, here is the list of towns in Usulutan Department where there was no electoral farce: Jucuapa, Estanzuelas, Nueva Granada, Mercedes Umana, El Triunfo, San Agustin, and San Francisco Javier.

Attention, reports that we have just received indicate that of 80 towns in eastern El Salvador, there was no electoral farce in 50 towns. We repeat. In 50 out of 80 towns in eastern El Salvador there was no electoral farce despite the dictatorship's efforts and the huge concentration of the dictatorship's battalions. In 47 towns and 3 cities in eastern El Salvador there was no electoral farce.

Domingo Monterrosa could not carry out the objective he was given by the U.S. advisers. We repeat, in 47 towns and 3 cities there was no electoral farce. There are other points in eastern El Salvador where there was also no electoral farce. We will be obtaining reports on this so as to broadcast them to our people.

Here is more information on the situation in eastern El Salvador. In the towns where there have been elections such as Santiago de Maria, Jiquilisco, Santa Rosa de Lima, and San Miguel, it has been reported that there have been big delays and problems due to the military situation in eastern El Salvador.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA APPROVES MODIFICATION OF PARTIES LAW

PA232343 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] General Oscar Mejia Victores, Guatemalan head of state, and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, TSE, have approved an initiative that modifies an aspect of the political parties law whereby political parties will no longer have departmental assemblies but will instead have national assemblies at which to nominate the candidates for national deputies. TSE President Arturo Herbruger Asturias detailed this decision:

[Begin Herbruger Asturias recording] There will be national and departmental deputies. Therefore, according to the law on political parties, it would be logical for each political party to have two different assemblies: a national assembly to nominate their candidates for national deputy seats, and a number of departmental assemblies to nominate candidates for departmental deputy seats. This procedure would prove very costly for the political parties. Therefore, they have been trying to eliminate this obstacle by requesting authorization to nominate all their candidates at their national assemblies. This was agreed to, because it is not against the regulations. We came to realize, however, that there could be a contradiction between the regulations and the law, so we discussed the matter with the president, and he agreed to modify the law in this respect. Thus, we will now submit a bill providing that political parties will only be required to hold a national assembly at which they will nominate all their candidates, who will represent the various departments. [end recording]

THREE FAMILIES SEEK ASYLUM IN ECUADORAN EMBASSY

PA251901 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Ecuadoran Ambassador Cesar Roman Gonzalez reported last night that eight people, members of three Guatemalan families threatened with death, have sought diplomatic protection at the Ecuadoran Embassy in Guatemala City. The diplomat reported that the families, which included young couples and two children, arrived at the embassy and told of the dangerous situation they were in, indicating they had been threatened. They added that unidentified armed persons were roaming near their homes. The ambassador has reportedly been told that two sons of one of the families, the Alvarado Chua family, have been killed. The Quito Government has already been notified of this.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA ANNOUNCES PROTEST TO NICARAGUA

PA232006 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1823 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Marco Tulio Romero report]

[Excerpt] We will now broadcast a statement by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica in which he confirms that the Honduran Government will protest today to the Nicaraguan Government over new acts of aggression by the Sandinist People's Army in the area of El Triunfo, Choluteca Department. The protest will also be addressed to international organizations, that is, to the United Nations and the OAS, as well as to the Contadora Group, which is composed of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama.

The situation is very delicate, especially since today it has been learned internationally that the Sandinist government has threatened to mine Central American ports from Guatemala to the Republic of Panama.

Let us listen, however, to what Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica says about this situation with Nicaragua:

[Begin recording] [Paz Barnica] [words indistinct] about this situation. We agreed that this morning the victims, Mr Manuel Valladares and his wife, will present themselves at the Foreign Secretariat and will give all of the pertinent information. In addition, yesterday afternoon the Armed Forces intelligence chief, Colonel Juan Lopez Grijalba, briefed me by telephone on other aspects of this matter, and we agreed that he would send me the pertinent information early today.

On the basis of these documents, we will lodge a most vigorous protest because, of course, this is not only a further violation of Honduras' territorial integrity, but an example of behavior on the part of the Nicaraguan Government that violates foreign private property, because it is not satisfied with merely violating private property in its own country. This demonstrates once again the Nicaraguan Government's apparent lack of willingness to enter into frank, permanent, and respectful agreements with Honduras. Let's hope Nicaragua will rectify this. As usual, I hope it does, so that a regional and global understanding may be reached to strengthen the efforts of the Contadora Group.

[Unidentified reporter] Will this protest be addressed to international bodies too?

[Paz Barnica] It will be addressed to the Nicaraguan Government, but it will also be sent for the official information of the international bodies and the Contadora Group. [end recording]

Further on Protest Note

PA241449 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Through the Foreign Secretariat, the Honduran Government yesterday filed a vigorous formal protest to the Nicaraguan Government for violations of Honduran territory carried out in the past few days by civilian groups accompanied by members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS]. As the result of these violations, several farms belonging to Honduran citizens were robbed by Nicaraguans in connivance with Nicaraguan troops.

The note sent by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto. Brockman pointed out that on the evening of 21 March a group of civilians accompanied by EPS members raided the Nance Dulce peasant settlement in El Triunfo muncipality, in Choluteca Department, and stole 250 head of cattle.

In addition, in the early morning hours of 22 March, a group composed of about 50 Nicaraguans presumably accompanied by EPS members entered La Flor farm in El Triunfo, in Choluteca Department, and stole six bulls, 174 milk cows, 249 steers, and 110 heifers. The animals were taken to Nicaragua. The farm belongs to Manuel Valladares.

Paz Barnica's protest note ended by saying: My government hereby presents its vigorous formal protest for this new violation of the national territory by Nicaraguan forces and demands that the stolen cattle be returned because these cattle are the genuine property of Honduran peasants and farmers, attained through honest, persistent work.

COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PA241601 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Dr Carlos Jose Gutierrez has arrived in Honduras and met with Honduran Government officials in order to learn their views on the Central American situation. In a statement to the press, Gutierrez expressed his country's sympathy for Roberto Suazo Cordovas' government.

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] I would say my basic purpose is twofold. In the first place, I have been working in a coordinated manner with Honduran Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica within the Contadora plan. As the result of this, and in view of the start of a new round of Contadora talks, we have decided to discuss the various problems presented.

In the second place, I would say that the Central American crisis forces all of us who have some part in it to know each other better. Because of this, I felt it absolutely necessary to talk with President Suazo, the minister of the presidency, and other government and [words indistinct] personalities. Unfortunately, because of my visit's brevity, not much time will be spent on this. I think it is good to take advantage of the visit to ask for more detailed information on the Honduran stance on the (?Central American situation). I think we will have to live with these problems for a long time, and more knowledge is absolutely necessary. This is what I am trying to get.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think that the presence of Soviet ships in Caribbean waters is a danger for the Contadora Group's peace efforts?

[Gutierrez] Everything that can represent steps leading to war aggravates the Central American crisis. Any action of this nature aggravates the danger of war because it makes a peaceful solution more difficult. I think a peaceful solution is still possible, and we should strive for this peaceful solution. We have to consider that less is spent in a year of diplomatic efforts than in 24 hours of armed struggle. In poor countries such as those in Central America, the financial disaster and the loss of lives would be even greater in a war. We have a responsibility as governments. We have to struggle to prevent this situation from (?worsening). [end recording]

OBSERVERS TO SALVADORAN ELECTION APPOINTED

PA231616 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 22 Mar 84 p 39

[Text] The president of the Republic has appointed the delegation that on behalf of the Honduran Government will attend as observers the presidential elections slated for 25 March in El Salvador. The delegation includes the following members: for the executive branch, Roberto Galvez Barnes, special ambassador for Central America and the Caribbean; for the National Electoral Tribunal, Adan Palacios and Yolanda de Vargas, members of this body; for the National Congress, Alberto Rodriguez Espinosa, vice president of the Legislative Chamber, and Deputies Vilma Malta de Gutierrez, Carlos Rivas Garcia, and Rafael Antonio Ardon Fuentes.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA DISCUSSES CONTADORA, U.S.-C.A. RELATIONS

PA231859 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Mar 84 pp 1A, 14A, 15A, 32A

[Excerpts] Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, yesterday said that the Contadora Group should expand and evolve into an inter-American organization -- such as the OAS, which is "practically defunct" -- but without the United States, in order to offer solutions to strictly Latin American problems such as those affecting Central America.

During the conversation, held at the residence of the Nicaraguan ambassador in Mexico, Ortega broached the following issues:

1. Should the United States engage in an open military intervention in Nicaragua, the resistance struggle could extend even into U.S. territory.

2. The Mexican revolution has had a definite influence on Sandinism.

3. The objective of the Nicaraguan Government is the integration of Central America.

The main topic, however, was the Contadora Group, together with the topics of the philosophical definition of Sandinism, the U.S. aggression, the U.S. blockade, and the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

It could be said, he added, that the Central American situation has for quite some time experienced moments of serious crisis, with the ever-present menace of U.S. intervention. He recalled that 3 months ago, in November, "a really critical situation came up that demanded a tremendous effort on the part of Nicaragua, international public opinion, the Latin American governments, and the Contadora Group to actually break up the U.S. interventionist actions that were threatening Nicaragua and El Salvador." After that critical situation, he said, new peace hopes appeared as the Contadora Group continued to advance significantly. "Nicaragua also took a few steps in that direction, both abroad and internally."

He described those steps as follows: In the international arena "Nicaragua strengthened the negotiating process, including the proposal for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign military presence in the Central American region, and the immediate freezing of the entry of weapons into the area."

He stressed that "this proposal was turned down by the United States."

Another effort, conforming to the original plan of the revolution, he explained, is that of the elections. "Specific steps have been taken in that direction." But, he pointed out, all those efforts to advance on behalf of peace and negotiations promoted since November "again broke up, and the United States renewed its serious threat against the territorial integrity and security of the Central American peoples."

"In an open military escalation," he noted, "in which the United States brought air, sea, and land military equipment into Central America, it also increased its criminal actions against the Nicaraguan people, including air and naval attacks and, above all, the mining of Nicaraguan ports." Ortega went on to say: "I believe that it would not be advisable to see the Contadora Group turned into an element competitive with the OAS. We believe that we are committed to strive for an OAS truly representative of Latin American interests, that is, an OAS without the United States. We think that this is elementary, just as there is an OAU without the presence of the nations that colonized the Africans, and the colonial countries lend their cooperation to those African states that have gained their independence."

"The mining," he said, "is a very serious matter because it not only attacks Nicaraguan trade, but also international travel. The United States has taken as a pretext the upcoming elections in El Salvador, elections that are not to benefit the Salvadoran people, but U.S. interests..." He added that "it is around these elections in El Salvador that all U.S. military forces are moving in the area.

He then reported that the U.S. aircraft carrier America is off the Central American coast particularly that of Nicaragua. "We must say," he observed, "that using the Salvadoran elections as a pretext, the United States is increasing its presence in the region and openly threatening to intervene in El Salvador and Nicaragua -- or both countries simultaneously -- which throws overboard all advances made in peace efforts and negotiations. Therefore, it demands a renewed international commitment, and the Contadora Group must play a decisive role to try to contain the U.S. military aggressive escalation in the Central American region..."

Bad News

Commander Ortega continued his explanation together with Danilo Aguirre, a Nicaraguan journalist who is secretary general of FELAP [Federation of Latin American Journalists], and Manuel Espinoza, director of information and press of the Government Junta.

Suddenly, from a neighboring office, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto made an appearance. D'Escoto is the priest who has directed Sandinist diplomacy since the start of that government. Ortega listened to something D'Escoto whispered in his ear, excused himself, and disappeared for approximately 5 minutes. On his return, looking visibly upset, the coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta announced:

At 1445 this afternoon, a Soviet tanker suffered serious damage from the explosion of a mine placed underwater by the counterrevolutionaries. Five persons were wounded. He added that the vessel was carrying 250,000 barrels of oil donated by the USSR, enough to supply the country for 20 days.

With bitterness in his tone, Ortega explained that this was the third vessel damaged by underwater mines: One belonged to NAMUCAR [Caribbean Multinational Shipping Line]; and was registered in Panama; one was a Netherlands vessel; and now there was the Soviet tanker. He regained his composure rapidly and pointed out optimistically: However, the oil is being unloaded. I believe it has been saved.

Freedom of the Press

For the first time in the history of Nicaragua, there is freedom of the press in the country, Orgega emphasized. He noted that up to 19 July 1979, there had been freedom to print newspapers only for Somoza and his friends. Only one sector of society had the right to be informed. As the reporters started to say goodbye to the friendly revolutionary leader, the last question came up: When will you have an air force? "It being our right, we are preparing to have one. Just as Honduras has strengthened its Air Force, for example. We intend to be able to operate our own aircraft in the near future," he concluded.

MEJIA WARNS U.S. POSES 'THREAT TO AREA'

PA210306 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Interview with Hugo Mejia, president of the National Assembly of Political Parties; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Mejia] A U.S. Government spokesman has confirmed what Nicaraguan Government officials have said about the presence of U.S. Special Forces troops in Honduras and warships off the coasts of Central America, which represent a threat to the area. The situation in Central America is very serious. For this reason we are sending out a general alarm to all the Nicaraguans to be prepared to defend their country. We are also calling on international organizations and peace-loving groups -- which have already expressed their solidarity with Central America, and particularly with Nicaragua -- to try to stop what the U.S. spokesman has termed joint military maneuvers. We have reason to believe -- the case of Grenada is proof enough -- that behind those words there is a definite plan to subdue the people's sovereign rights.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Mejia, how would you interpret this direct threat to the Salvadoran people and to the guerrillas?

[Mejia] The answer is right in front of us, with that enormous display of military forces, disregarding the proposal for a political resolution that the democratic forces of El Salvador and Central America have submitted and that the U.S. Government has turned down. With such actions the U.S. Government is only confirming that a political resolution to the Central American problem is not part of its plan, and this demonstration of military power only reveals to the world its warmongering policy.

MINESWEEPING EQUIPMENT SAID WANTED FOR PORTS

PA220457 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2304 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 21 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction today declared on his return from Mexico that the Sandinists are making efforts to acquire "minesweeping" equipment in order to clear the Nicaraguan ports of explosives.

Ortega insisted that the U.S. Government is the one that decided to place these mines in the Ports of Corinto, Sandino, and El Bluff, located in the Pacific and Atlantic. The Sandinist leader concluded his visit to Mexico earlier than scheduled as a result of the "grave" international situation that has arisen after a Soviet oil tanker collided with a mine in the Pacific Port of Sandino.

Ortega told the Mexican president of the "escalation of the regional crisis," prior to Miguel de la Madrid's trip to Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, and Brazil. According to what he told the Mexican president, Ortega hopes that the "Contadora Group" (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama) will undertake efforts aimed at "containing" the "aggressive" policy of the United States and opening the possibilities of dialogue so as to solve the Central American problem peacefully. The government leader recalled that many ships have been damaged by "the criminal action" of the Reagan administration, which is carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Ortega charged that the anti-Sandinist groups of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) led by Eden Pastora, and the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) are "propagandistic instruments of the terrorist actions of the United States." The Nicaraguan leader said that placing the mines and simply obtaining them is very difficult for the regular armies, and noted that this requires special skills. Ortega affirmed that the insurgent groups, ARDE and the FDN, do not have the ability to install the explosive charges. "It is the U.S. Government that decides and plans the mining of the Nicaraguan ports, thereby heightening the difficult situation that exists in the Central American region, Ortega added.

The Soviet oil tanker Lugansk was hit Tuesday by the explosion of one of these mines in the Nicaraguan Pacific coast Port of Sandino. The explosion shook the structure of the Soviet "tanker," which suffered undetermined damage in empty compartments. Five Soviet seamen, including Autaudil Salijazadze and Nicolai Zretiakov, crewmen of the Lugansk, were injured and had to be hospitalized in the city of Chinandega.

Commander Daniel Ortega affirmed that the explosion of the mines that affected the Soviet ship did not interrupt the unloading operations in Puerto Sandino of 250,000 barrels of oil that the tanker brought to this country. The oil that the Lugansk is unloading in the Nicaraguan port comes from Novorossiysk Port on the Black Sea.

The Sandinist government leader did not specify the countries from which Nicaragua has requested "minesweepers." He only said that these have been requested from governments "of diverse ideologies."

Meanwhile, Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Gromyko personally delivered a letter to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow protesting this "act of banditry and piracy." Gromyko affirmed that the United States "is totally responsible for the consequences that are to be expected from this act."

VIETNAM OFFERS AID AGAINST 'POSSIBLE INVASION'

PA231707 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1410 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Vietnamese Government has offered arms to the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction to defend the country in the face of a "possible" U.S. miltiary intervention in Nicaragua.

It was today reported that the embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has issued a statement in Managua offering the "technical and military means" that the Nicaraguan Government has requested. Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega on 13 March called on "all the countries of the world," asking them to offer Nicaragua the technical and military means to counter a possible invasion and defend Nicaragua's territorial integrity. Vietnam's offer is in line with the opinion of Sandinist People's Army analysts who believe that "conditions are now propitious" for a U.S. military intervention in El Salvador or Nicaragua.

RUIZ SIGNS COOPERATION PACTS WITH USSR IN MOSCOW

PA240313 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow -- Nicarguan Planning Minister Commander Henry Ruiz declared in [words indistinct] that the friendly relations between Nicaragua and the USSR are growing stronger each day and are a guarantee for successful social and economic development in this country. Henry Ruiz signed several documents aimed at strengthening Nicaraguan-Soviet cooperation in matters of economy. Yakov Ryabov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, signed on behalf of the USSR, the intergovernment protocol states that the USSR will give Nicaragua technical help in the creation of oil bases in the western area of the country. The two countries will also cooperate in the expansion of the textile industry in Nicaragua.

NOTE PROTESTING ATTACK SENT TO HONDURAS

PA260145 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0101 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry tonight charged that a joint force of Honduran Army soldiers and "Somozist mercenaries" attacked the Nicaraguan community of La Ceiba. A protest note sent by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica stated that the attack occurred at 0430 (1030 GMT). The Honduran soldiers and the anti-Sandinists based in Honduras attacked La Ceiba, 5 km northwest of Somotillo, with artillery and mortar fire, the government report added.

In the note, the Sandinist government insisted "once again" on the need to resort to the methods of peaceful solution of controversies in order to "prevent at all costs the war that the aggressive Reagan administration wants to impose on our long-suffering peoples." The Sandinist authorities urged the Honduran Government "not to lend itself to the U.S. adventurous and illegal plans, and thus prevent the spreading of the Central American conflict."

The Managua Foreign Ministry did not specify the results of the attack. The note also does not refer to attacks this morning in other border sectors near Cinco Pinos and San Francisco del Norte in Chinandega Department.

Meanwhile, this afternoon a Sandinist street demonstration was held in Somotillo, in northwest Nicaragua, to protest the new attacks from Honduras by the "counterrevolutionaries who are financed and organized by the Reagan administration."

RAMIREZ RETURNS FROM MIDDLE EAST, EUROPE

PA250417 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, returned to the country this afternoon after visiting Iran and Libya. He was greeted at the airport by Government Junta Coordinator Commander Daniel Ortega and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto. On his arrival, Ramirez Mercado made the following statement:

[Begin Ramirez recording] We found that the Iranian people expressed complete solidarity with the Sandinist revolution because of the attacks that we are enduring, all of which are constantly reported by the Iranian media. We found that same solidarity with the Sandinist revolution in all of the factories and towns we visited.

During our trip home we had the opportunity to meet with Libyan leader Mu'Ammar Al-Qadhdhafi, with whom we discussed the attacks being suffered by Nicaragua, the situation in Central America, and bilateral relations.

Finally, during a technical stopover in Spain, we met with Spanish Vice Premier Alfonso Guerra, with whom we discussed the deterioration in Nicaragua's situation resulting from the attack on the Soviet tanker, the mining of our ports by the CIA, and the terrorist campaign unleashed by U.S. imperialism against our revolution, which has increased in recent days. We also agreed on the need to strengthen the Contadora Group. We asked the Spanish Government to reinforce our position by strengthening the Contadora Group's political role and unmasking the U.S. terrorist attitude, so that a political solution to the Central American conflict may be achieved and the attacks on Nicaragua stopped.

We are pleased to report that we found a warm and receptive attitude wherever we went, and we are sure that our meetings have contributed to even stronger relations between Nicaragua and the countries we visited. [end recording]

Reports on Trip

PA232206 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The people and Government of Nicaragua have the ample support and solidarity of the peoples and governments of Iran and Libya in the face of the aggressive escalation by the United States against our country. This statement was made this afternoon by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, following his official visit to those friendly countries. On this evening newscast, let us hear his words:

[Begin Ramirez recording] We have just ended an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, invited by the country's prime minister. We were in Iran for 6 days, and we had the opportunity to meet with the leaders of the Islamic revolution. We met with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Companero Khamene'i, and held several work sessions with the prime minister, cabinet members, and revolutionary leaders. We visited several areas of the country, such as the war zone on the border with Iraq and economic development areas, and we issued a joint communique that was published in our two countries. In the joint communique we reviewed relations between Iran and Nicaragua and the outlook for these relations, as well as international situations. We must add that at all times we found in the people of Iran their solidarity for the Sandinist revolution and against the aggressions we are experiencing. [end recording]

JUNTA TO RECEIVE APPROVED ELECTORAL LAW

PA240440 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] A State Council drafting commission yesterday put the final touches on the electoral law recently approved by the State Council plenum without the participation of the opposition political parties. Dr Orlando Quinonez, a drafting commission member, said that the law could be presented to the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction today for publication. Quinonez added that the political parties will not be able to suggest amendments to the law once it is in the junta's hands, because, according to the amendment to Article 18 of the Constitution, the law, which is a State Council law, is not subject to amendments by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. Therefore, the law will be published. The law has 159 articles and was approved after 15 days of State Council debate.

EDUCATION MINISTER TUNNERMAN VIEWS ELECTIONS

AU231529 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1130 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Interview given by Carlos Tunnerman, minister of education, to Brigitte Fuchs in Vienna -- recorded, date not given; answers in Spanish with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Fuchs] Mr Minister Tunnerman, on 4 November elections will be held in Nicaragua, 1 day before the American Presidential elections and earlier than planned. What kind of elections are these for Nicaragua?

[Tunnerman] We have fixed the elections for a date a few months earlier with the intention of celebrating the year of Augusto Cesar Sandino. We are celebrating Sandino's 50th anniversary. They will in any case be democratic elections and we have two juridicial instruments for the elections. First, a party law -- all parties are admitted and they have a democratic scope -- and second, an election law that is to govern the election process and guarantee its democratic form.

[Fuchs] Who is going to be elected in these elections? Are they presidential elections, parliamentary elections, or elections to a constituent assembly?

[Tunnerman] A president and vice president will be elected and then on a separate ballot but in the same election 90 deputies for the national assembly. This national assembly is to work out a constitution in the first 2 years. This new constitution will be approved, and as a consequence the national assembly will have legislative power and approve and enact laws. This will be 2 years after the new constitution comes into force.

[Fuchs] Can one foresee how many parties will participate in these elections all together or how many candidates there are for the office of the president and vice president?

[Tunnerman] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] at an election assembly announced that it will have its own candidates for the presidency and the vice presidency. In July they will say which candidates they are. The Independent Liberal Party earlier had a coalition agreement with the Sandinists, but they will run separately in the elections. Also the Communist Party, a very small party of Nicaragua, will probably have its own candidates. The Social Democratic party is a relatively young party and has stated that it will also participate in the elections, if there are enough guarantees for democratic elections.

There are other parties that will probably enter coalitions with the already existing ones. It is possible that one of these parties, these smaller parties, will enter into coalition with the FSLN. It is also possible that the Social Christian Party will enter into coalition with the Sandinistas or with another party. In any case there will be three or four candidates for the presidency.

[Fuchs] Do you think that after holding these elections in November the political and military pressure on Nicaragua from outside will cease?

[Tunnerman] The elections will fulfill a promise. We have always said that 5 years after the revolution, democratic elections for a new government will be held. It has often been an argument against the government now governing in Nicaragua that this government was not elected. But we believe that the present government has the legitimacy of the people. There was this product of the revolution, in which all the people had participated. We hope that the argument that this government is not the product of elections will disappear when we will have held these elections and will have a democratic government. [as heard] Then there will no longer be a reason for outside interference.

PLANNING MINISTER RUIZ ARRIVES IN BULGARIA

For Sofia Domestic Service coverage of the 24 March arrival in Bulgaria of Henry Ruiz Hernandez, member of the FSLN National Directorate and minister of planning, see the Bulgaria section of the 26 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BRIEFS

WORKERS LEAVE FOR BULGARIA -- A total of 124 young workers left today for Bulgaria for 5 years of training in various professions. The group, selected by both the 19 July Sandinist Youth and the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers, has pledged to return and promote production within the revolutionary process. An official Bulgarian airline plane, which brought a valuable donation from that country yesterday, took the young people to Bulgaria. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 14 Mar 84 PA]

NEW AMBASSADORS' CREDENTIALS -- Four new ambassadors have presented their credentials to the revolutionary government. They are Jane Debenest from France, Kojo Amo-Gottfried from Ghana, Kirana Chuchom from Thailand, and Ahmet Asim Akyamac from Turkey. They expressed solidarity with Nicaragua and their support for a peaceful solution to Central American problems. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Mar 84 p 5 PA]

EPS RECEIVES NEW BRIGADE -- In a simple but meaningful ceremony, the National Directorate of the Militias and the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, command celebrated the first anniversary of Guerrilla and Brigade Commander Hilario Sanchez Vasquez' death. In honor of his tragic death, the Hilario Sanchez Brigade 241 was presented to the EPS. [Summary] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 5 Mar 84 pp 3, 12 PA]

SOVIET NAVAL DETACHMENT ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL231412 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] A Soviet naval flotilla composed of the antisubmarine cruiser Leningrad, diesel submarine Udaloy, and an oil tanker will arrive 26 March in Havana on an official and friendly visit.

On arrival at the port, the Soviet flotilla will be met by a round of artillery salvos and a salute by units of the Cuban Revolutionary Marine Infantry. The flotilla is commanded by Rear Admiral Fedor Starozhilov.

The Soviet flotilla will participate in a variety of activities during their stay. These will include visits to places of historic and tourist interest, cultural events, and meetings with Cuban officials.

COOPERATION WITH USSR TO YEAR 2000 STUDIED

FL232132 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Representatives of the main planning agencies of the Soviet Union and Cuba have begun in Cuba to study the overall matters that pertain to the coordination of plans and cooperation up to the year 2000. This is the first meeting of experts to analyze the coordination of state plans of the two countries for the 1986-90 5-year period and bilateral cooperation up to the year 2000. These talks are headed by Nikolay Inozemtsev, deputy chairman of the State Planning Committee of the USSR, and his Cuban counterpart Miguel A. Figueras.

Both parties analyzed all the aspects of bilateral cooperation as well as the drafting of respective plans for social and economic development of the two countries.

Figueras also met with Petr Paskar, first deputy chairman of the Gosplan [State Planning Committee] of the USSR.

ACCORD SIGNED WITH USSR ON SUPPLIES FOR 1985

FL232216 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Cuba and the Soviet Union have signed a final protocol for the supply of equipment, spare parts, materiel, and the delivery of documents for projects for 1985. The agreement contains all the information which makes it possible to learn to advance the volumes of supplies to be shipped in 1985 as established in cooperation accords.

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES MOZAMBICAN DELEGATION

FL231254 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Rui Jorge Gomes Lousa, minister of posts, telecommunications, and civil aviation of the People's Republic of Mozambique, who heads his country's delegation to the fifth meeting of the Cuban-Mozambican joint commission. During the talks the international political and economic situation was discussed and results of exchanges in bilateral economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and its future development were examined.

Cooperation Pact Signed

FL241324 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] A cooperation agreement between Cuba and Mozambique resulting from the fifth session of the Mixed Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation Commission has been signed in Havana. Joaquin Benevides, Cuban minister president of the State Committee of Labor and Social Security, and Rui Jorge Gomes Lousa, Mozambique minister of posts, telecommunications, and civil aviation, signed the agreement. The two countries are cooperating in fields that include fishing, health care, education, and the sugar industry.

NETHERLANDS SIGNS AGREEMENT TO UPGRADE RELATIONS

FL231950 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] An official agreement creating the Cuba-Netherlands Working Group has been signed in the Primavera Room of the Havana Libre Hotel. Pedro Perez, director of the Cuban Mixed Committee, and Edward (Meier), his Dutch counterpart, were interviewed on the benefits of setting up this group:

[Begin recording] [Perez] Forming this group is very important to us because through it, we and the Netherlanders -- who already had their own group 2 years ago -- will deal with matters of mutual interest. We will further develop trade between our two countries with emphasis on trying to solve some of the problems due to increasing Cuban exports to the Netherlands.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr (Meier), we would like to know your opinion on economic cooperation between the two countries.

[(Meier)] In our opinion, the work that we have done with Cuba has been very good. About 4 or 5 years ago we discovered that our relations with Cuba should have been upgraded, particularly bilateral relations with an increase in trade and technical assistance. [end recording]

C. R. RODRIGUEZ ADDRESSES HAVANA LAW STUDENTS

FL231944 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, member of the Politburo, has given an address on communist training for law students before an audience of students at the University of Havana. Participating in a conference entitled The Communist Training of Law Students, Carlos Rafael critically analyzed the first stage of the revolutionary process, during which the training of lawyers was unfortunately neglected and their role in socialist society was diminished.

He explained that this was in part due to society's repudiation of the role lawyers played in the prerevolutionary process and in part to idealistic concepts that caused people to believe that the installation of socialism would automatically and quickly end crime and legal contradictions under the auspices of state production.

Carlos Rafael referred to the effort the country is making under the party's guidance to improve the role of lawyers and to bring their training up to high levels of professionalism, as has been done in other areas of higher education, such as medicine and the technical careers.

The Politburo member stated that although law in defense of society naturally has a repressive character, what is fundamental in socialist law is its educational role and the rehabilitation and reinstatement into the new society of citizens who fall into antisocial behavior.

After Carlos Rafael Rodriguez' speech, youth leader Jose Luis (Ilizon) Gonzalez asked him to inform Commander in Chief Fidel Castro of the decision by the students of the Law Faculty to complete all tasks and responsibilities assigned to them.

CULTURE MINISTER HART ADDRESSES FILM WORKERS

FL241440 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo and minister of culture, has addressed the closing session of the 12th international conference of film industry workers from socialist countries, which met for 3 days at Havana's Palace of Conventions. He commented: Socialist film industry workers can and should continue supporting festivals, distribution networks, and the interests of the critics and the public; contributing to the development of national cinematographies; and spreading the image of Latin America throughout the world.

Hart said that the work sessions at the conference were very beneficial. He added: The sessions permit us to look to the future with optimism, although the film industry workers have much work to do.

COMMISSION REVIEWS PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

FL222335 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The National Electoral Commission has reviewed the preparations for the upcoming elections. In a meeting presided over by Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, it was announced that these preparations are under way in a satisfactory manner. It was also reported that on 8 April, a trial run will be made and it will serve to update the voters' registry and confirm the effectiveness of the people's organization and mobilization.

The Council of State tasked the Electoral Commission with organizing the elections for delegates to municipal assemblies of the People's Government to be held on 15 and 22 April, in a first and second round.

It was also reported at this meeting that more than 25,500 meetings to nominate candidates were held throughout the country and that 16.3 percent of those candidates are women. This figure is higher than that of the previous elections held in 1981.

UK AUTHORITIES REFUSE ENTRY TO FIVE REFUGEES

FL241404 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Five so-called Cuban refugees are in a detention center near London's Heathrow Airport because no country will accept them. The British newspaper THE DAILY TELEGRAPH has reported that the individuals left Cuba expecting that some supposed friends would help them get visas so that they could go to Miami, but they did not get the visas.

The five self-proclaimed refugees were to have picked up their documentation in Jamaica, but authorities in that country would not allow them to enter. British Airways has had to bear the costs of transporting them to the Bahamas, Bermuda, and other places, which have also refused to accept them. The five individuals have already traveled more than 40,000 km and now British immigration authorities have also refused to accept them.

U.S. INTERVENTION SEEN AS WORSENING C.A. CRISIS

PA231501 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 22 Mar 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The political and military crisis in Central America continues to become increasingly worse as a result of the growing U.S. intervention in the area.

Washington's warmongering policy encourages and exacerbates the ambitions of the power elites in El Salvador and Honduras in particular, and compels the Somozist forces to carry out armed actions against the new Nicaragua. We see, then, that the White House deliberately interferes in the efforts to bring peace to Central America.

Ever since the Contadora Group -- made up of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela -- was created in January 1983, the U.S. Government has been scheming to torpedo the group's efforts to find negotiated solutions to the regional crisis. The U.S. leaders publicly supported the Contadora Group's efforts while in practice they attempted to undermine its foundations. At present, Washington scarcely makes mention of the group; in other words, it has removed its mask and no longer hides the fact that its goal in Central America is to impose military solutions intended to break up the guerrilla forces in El Salvador and to rush the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua.

In light of these goals, the new joint exercises of the Honduran troops and the Yankee Marines [as heard] of the U.S.Southern Command in the Panama Canal area began last Sunday, approximately 40 km from Tegucigalpa. News dispatches report that the war games will end on 29 March. However, the two armies will perform other military actions before the beginning of the "Grenadier 1" joint maneuvers scheduled to begin in June.

There are very few left who believe in the alleged U.S. democratic goals in Central America. Reports of U.S. intervention in the area are increasingly frequent, as was confirmed at the international conference on Latin America that recently ended in Montreal, Canada. Robert White, a former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, stated that more military aid from Washington to the Salvadoran regime will only increase the number of crimes in that Central American nation. He described as a trap the Salvadoran elections that will be used by Ronald Reagan's administration as a pretext to increase its military aid program to Alvaro Magana's regime.

Other delegates insisted on the need to prevent any kind of military assistance to the Central American regimes and to seek negotiated solutions to the political conflicts that plague the isthmus.

Meanwhile, Guillermo Ungo, president of El Salvador's FDR, said that the guerrillas will not prevent the holding of the 25 March elections by military force. He also said that the FMLN will not stop those Salvadoran citizens who out of fear for their lives and their safety will be forced to vote in order to have their personal identification cards stamped, in a country where voting is compulsory. He ended by saying that the war in El Salvador will continue because U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the Salvadoran regime want neither a negotiated solution nor peace for El Salvador.

The participants in the international conference on Latin America stressed that there will be peace in Central America and that the struggle on the entire continent will end only when governments that respond to the needs and interests of the masses and to the authentic democratic forces are established .

CONTADORA TECHNICAL GROUP HOLDS 'URGENT' MEETING

FL222325 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Panamanian foreign minister has announced that Contadora's Technical Group held an urgent meeting in Panama City to assess the new and very serious Central American situation. This meeting also studied the progress of efforts to establish the legal basis that will permit the preparation of a draft peace treaty among Central American nations. Contadora's Technical Group coordinates the work of the three commissions created on 31 January which are in charge of preparing the preliminary documents for agreements among Central American governments in the areas of security and political and socioeconomic matters.

On 30 April the Contadora Group and the five Central American foreign ministers will begin the stage of negotiations in which they receive the report from the three commissions that are working on the draft for the general peace treaty.

NEW U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY APPOINTED TO C.A.

FL232230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The U.S. Senate has ratified the appointment of Harry Shlaudemann as the new U.S. special envoy to Central America replacing Richard Stone, who resigned early this year. The new special envoy was the executive director of the Kissinger commission which advocated a greater U.S. military assistance for the region.

U.S. 'OCEAN VENTURE-84' MILITARY MANEUVERS NOTED

FL231258 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] More than 30,000 U.S. troops, 250 airplanes, the aircraft carrier America, and other warships will participate in the "Ocean Venture-84" military maneuvers, which are scheduled to begin on 20 April. The U.S. military maneuvers will last until 6 May and will take place in areas of the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Straits of Florida, the Atlantic Ocean, and on the Puerto Rican Island of Vieques and at Guantanamo Naval Base. A Pentagon spokesman pointed out that the U.S. troops would carry out at Guantanamo Bay a simulated defense exercise of the naval base, which is located at Caimanera in Eastern Cuba.

30,000 Troops To Participate

PA240437 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The U.S. Pentagon has announced that the United States will carry out important military maneuvers, called "Ocean Venture-84," in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico in April and May. More than 30,000 U.S. troops will participate in these maneuvers, with 250 combat airplanes, B-52 strategic bombers, and dozens of warships, including the giant aircraft carrier America.

The "Ocean Venture-84" maneuvers will consist of air-raid drills, amphibious landings, bombings, and aircraft carrier group operations. The Pentagon announcement added that the exercises are aimed at demonstrating U.S. military power and improving its capability to control the maritime routes in the Caribbean Basin and the Gulf of Mexico. At the same time, it added that Washington will not hesitate to use its armed strength when necessary. According to observers, this statement by the Yankee defense department is interpreted as a new message of power from the Ronald Reagan government to the Cuban and Nicaraguan Governments.

It is known that the United States has sent the guided missile cruiser Virginia and the destroyer Mahan to Central American waters, along with the (Platt) oil tanker. The 10,000-ton Virginia is equipped with antisurface, antisubmarine, and antiaircraft weapons, while the Mahan destroyer is equipped with a guided missile system.

U.S. ATTEMPTS TO GUARANTEE SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

PA251914 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 23 Mar 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpt] On the eve of the electoral farce organized by the Salvadoran regime, the United States has begun unprecedented military maneuvers in Honduras. These maneuvers have been described by the Pentagon as a bridge between the "Big Pine" exercises that ended several weeks ago in Honduran territory and the so-called "Grenadier I" exercises announced for next May.

U.S. military spokesmen announced that the maneuvers now under way in Honduras to test the rapid deployment capability of the forces involved in case of an emergency will extend until 29 March, that is, 4 days after the Salvadoran electoral farce.

The U.S. intention to put little stress on the maneuvers is evident. U.S. spokesmen contradict Honduran sources over the number of troops participating in this special counterinsurgency operation exercise.

The United States is determined to guarantee the conclusion of the electoral farce in El Salvador, and the deployment of those military forces in the neighboring country could well be designed to find an excuse for military intervention in El Salvador. The elections have no significance whatsoever, and nobody believes in them. This is the reason for the increasingly dangerous U.S. military escalation in Honduras, with the arrival off its coasts of a U.S. war fleet, including the aircraft carrier America with 100 warplanes and other modern combat equipment aboard.

To the Salvadoran guerrillas, the elections in the country are irrelevant. The FMLN has announced that it will not obstruct or militarily prevent the electoral farce, as many Salvadoran citizens will be forced to have their identity documents stamped in view of threats against their lives and security by the authorities.

Sunday, 25 March, the day of the elections, will be just another day in the war under way in El Salvador because, as FDR President Guillermo Ungo has stated, the war will continue because the U.S. and Salvadoran Governments do not want a negotiated solution of the internal conflict in that country and are not interested in peace for the region.

U.S. SENDS ARMS TO EL SALVADOR BEFORE ELECTION

FL241552 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The United States will conduct its largest-ever military maneuvers in the Central American and Caribbean areas. More than 30,000 Yankee soldiers will participate in these exercises, which will take place in Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, and Puerto Rico. The maneuvers include Marines disembarking on the Puerto Rican Island of Vieques and at Guantanamo Naval Base.

This operation, carried out in the same style as the U.S. invasion of Grenada, is in preparation for new interventions into this region. The exercises, called "Ocean Venture-84," will use soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division and from the 26th Marine Amphibious Unit. "Ocean Venture-84" will also use 250 combat aircraft, including B-52 bombers, and dozens of warships, among them the giant aircraft carrier America.

Another report states that the United States has reinforced the Salvadoran Air Force with 14 new combat helicopters, 10 Huey troop transports, and 4 Cobras for counter-insurgency operations. This increase in the number of weapons coincides with the upcoming elections which Washington has imposed on the Salvadoran people. The election farce has been rejected by the people, and democratic forces insist that the only way out of the nation's crisis is through negotiations and not through elections. The genocidal regime and the White House are trying to use the elections to gain time to continue their criminal war against the people.

Last minute reports state that the Salvadoran Armed Forces have put all troops on maximum alert and are carrying out bombing raids against rural areas around Cerro Guazapa. Nevertheless, guerrilla forces continue to fight against the regime's soldiers before the elections. They have attacked a military position at Rio (Azuate), dynamited two electrical power towers, and destroyed a C-123 airplane at San Miguel Airport. These attacks were in memory of Archbishop Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who was assasinated 4 years ago by the regime's henchmen.

The FMLN stated that this crime not only has gone unpunished but that the assassin and his accomplices are the main participants in the upcoming election farce on 25 March. Presidential candidate Roberto D'Aubuisson planned, financed, and carried out the assassination. The other candidate [words indistinct] the criminal act.

New Battalions To Be Formed

FL231525 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The Salvadoran repressive military forces have begun redoubling their efforts before the upcoming presidential elections on 25 March, which the FMLN has described as a farce and an event which will facilitate a U.S. direct intervention.

Washington has reinforced the Salvadoran Air Force with 14 new combat helicopters -- 10 Huey troop transport type and the rest for counterinsurgency combat. The aid is part of the Reagan administration's emergency military aid package to El Salvador, given under the pretext of further preparing the Army against guerrilla attacks.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee has announced that thanks to the emergency aid new battalions with about 500 soldiers each as well as two antiterrorist infantry battalions will be formed by the end of 1984.

Another report stated that the regime's forces had begun a new offensive against guerrilla positions after the guerrilla sappers had blown up a U.S.-made C-123 at the Obrajuelo military airport, 12 km from San Miguel.

D'AUBUISSON CITED ON U.S.-SALVADORAN TIES

FL241804 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The true, traitorous character of Salvadoran ultrarightist Roberto D'Aubuisson was reaffirmed in his most recent statement that if he won the election next Sunday, 25 March, he would seek even closer relations with the United States. At a press conference in San Salvador, the former Army major, the primary leader of the death squads, reiterated his opinion that U.S. military aid is needed.

These statements -- logical, of course, to an ultrarightist and pro-U.S. element -- make clear to the public what could happen in El Salvador if D'Aubuisson's party wins the elections. It is no secret that despite the fact that imperialist circles in the United States have been criticizing the activities of the Salvadoran death squads, of which D'Aubuisson is the major exponent, the criticism is merely camouflage by the Reagan administration in an attempt to limit worldwide rejection. It is inconvenient for the United States to appear to support a practice that it has ostensibly rejected, but it needs a strong hand in El Salvador that will guarantee the continued cohesion of the Army and other repressive forces.

D'Aubuisson could be a man whose time has come. He is capable of selling his soul to the devil and permitting the seemingly legal entry of the Marines or at least of more U.S. advisers to increasingly intervene in El Salvador. In other words, closer relations with the United States -- as D'Aubuisson is requesting -- can only mean opening El Salvador's doors to Reagan.

EUROPEAN UNIONS SUPPORT SALVADORAN FMLN PROPOSAL

PA240337 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] General secretaries of workers' unions in Spain, Italy, and Portugal have signed a message in Rome supporting the Salvadoran guerrilla organization's proposal for the formation of a broad-based government in that Central American nation. The document says that to achieve peace in El Salvador it is necessary to have a government representing political, social, and economic forces willing to eliminate the oligarchic regime and to lead the nation to an authentic democracy, as the FMLN and Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] proposal states. The text comments that the current climate in El Salvador does not favor the realization of authentic elections because of the total impunity with which the regime's military and paramilitary apparatuses operate.

According to reports from Madrid, Rafael Estrella, president of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Spanish Senate, said that his country will not send observers to the Salvadoran elections scheduled for 25 March. Estrella said that the United States pressured Spain to send observers to the elections, but no one will go individually, as a party, or from the government. Enrique Rubrio, FMLN-FDR representative in Spain, said that the guerrilla forces will not boycott the elections in El Salvador, but he stressed that the difficult situation in that Central American nation makes these elections a farce created by the United States.

ELECTION FACTIONS CLASH IN EL SALVADOR

FL231430 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] It has been reported that the election campaign in El Salvador reached its climax with a violent clash among supporters of the different political coalitions that are competing in next Sunday's elections. The Salvadoran Army has reported that its troops are now on alert status under the pretext of guaranteeing the presidential elections.

Army on Alert

FL232134 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces have been placed on maximum alert while bombing operations are being carried out against purported guerrilla strongholds. Salvadoran military spokesmen said that the alert is due to the proximity of next Sunday's elections and is a preventive measure taken in case the insurgents increase their attacks. The spokesmen said that the possibility of new attacks by FMLN guerrillas has not been ruled out and gave as an example the destruction of a C-123 aircraft of the Salvadoran Air Force on a landing strip in San Miguel.

Another military report said that so-called guerrilla positions had been bombed on Cerro Guazapa. Salvadoran Armed Forces spokesmen said that Cerro Guazapa had been bombed to keep the guerrillas from approaching San Salvador Volcano, located about 30 km from the capital.

FMLN forces attacked a military post located on the (Azuapi) River, located about 36 kilometers north of the capital, according to San Salvador radio broadcasts. The same sources stressed the fact that in San Salvador guerrilla forces dynamited two high-tension towers. According to the radio, the FMLN has warned that it will take energetic action against politicians who attempt to coerce citizens into voting this Sunday.

SALVADORAN REBELS: U.S. SENT MINES TO NICARAGUA

FL240040 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The equipment that was used to mine Puerto Sandino on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua was shipped from the United States to El Salvador and from there to Nicaragua, Radio Farabundo Marti reported today. The guerrilla radio revealed that Alvaro Magana's government gave the counterrevolutionaries the support they needed to mine Puerto Sandino under orders of the CIA. The imperialist operations against Nicaragua are turning almost all the countries in the Central American region into belligerents, the FMLN radio station said.

SALVADORAN OFFICER ACCUSES CARRANZA OF CIA TIES

FL222310 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] A Salvadoran officer has told CBS that Colonel Nicolas Carranza, commander of the Salvadoran Treasury Police, has been a CIA informer since 1970. The officer who was presented in a CBS program wearing a hood also accused Roberto D'Aubuisson, rightist leader and presidential candidate, of being the leader of the death squads in his country. He said that D'Aubuisson and Carranza have had close ties for a long time and that Carranza receives $90,000 per year from the CIA.

He disclosed that the rape and murder of the four U.S. nuns in December 1980 was directed by Colonel Oscar Edgardo Casanova, a cousin of the current Salvadoran defense minister.

SALVADORAN FMLN DESTROYS PLANE, DAMAGES RUNWAY

FL231404 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The FMLN has destroyed a U.S.-made airplane and damaged a military landing strip just 12 km from the City of San Miguel. When they confirmed this report, military sources said that they could not explain how the sabotage occurred because the landing strip had been inspected hours earlier by personnel who specialized in the detection of mine fields.

Other Actions Reported

PA260307 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Army suffered more that 60 casualties including 32 deaths when a military patrol was ambushed by guerrillas in the vicinity of Tecoluca, San Vicente Department, on the eve of the electoral farce taking place today, Sunday, in the convulsed Central American country.

The farcical presidential elections were begun before all of the voting booths could be opened. They are all surrounded by a strong military apparatus, while Air Force helicopters fly over the capital.

San Salvador and neighboring areas began the day without electricity as a result of several attacks by FMLN forces against electric towers near the 15 September Hydroelectric Plant, while government sources acknowledged the interruption at the Pacayal microwave station in San Miguel.

The Independent Movement of Salvadoran Professionals [MIPTES] declared the existence of more than 300,000 false identification cards. Rebel radio stations reported significant actions against the Salvadoran Army in Usulutan and San Miguel Departments, while the regime continues its vast antiguerrilla operation in Chalatenango, Cuscatlan, and areas in the northern part of San Salvador.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA ON SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

FL222300 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The heads of state of Mexico and Nicaragua and the UN secretary general have demanded, in Mexico City, full respect for a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis. The call was made practically as a dramatic cry, in the face of all the evidence presented by the deployment of U.S. troops and naval ships into the region, essentially in Honduras. This activity is considered a prelude to a direct U.S. military intervention which could also include Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Daniel Ortega, on his return to Managua, told reporters that the United States is taking advantage of El Salvador's general elections, which it is backing, to increase its military presence and to try to avoid a defeat by the Salvadoran military, which seems a likely possibility. Ortega added that the Salvadoran election situation is the White House's pretext to try to strike a final blow to the Salvadoran guerrillas and to Nicaragua. But for the Salvadoran people, who are experiencing a critical economic period, promises made by the military leaders do not offer a solution.

Armed individuals from ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], which is headed by ultra-reactionary Roberto D'Aubuisson, are intimidating voters in a bid to win the elections. Meanwhile, the elections are non-existent for more than 250,000 Salvadorans who have sought refuge in the cities, escaping the regimes' repression. Schools have not opened for their children and people must depend on donations from international organizations in order to eat.

ST KITTS-NEVIS

STATE JOINS ACP; TO PARTICIPATE IN CONVENTION

FL230044 Bridgetown CANA in English 2216 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Brussels, March 22 (CANA-REUTER) -- Saint Kitts-Nevis has joined the group of countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) tied to the European Community through a trade and aid pact, a European commission spokesman said today.

The Caribbean state would receive two million dollars worth of development aid from the 10-nation bloc as new signatory of the Lome Convention, he said.

Most of its exports would also have duty-free access to community markets.

Saint Christopher and Nevis, the Country's official name [as received], became self-governing in 1967 and gained full independence from Britain in September 1983. It has a population of 44,000.

The spokesman said St Kitts-Nevis, the 13th ACP state in the Caribbean region, would take full part in ongoing negotiations between the ACP group and the community on the renewal of the Lome Convention.

SIMMONDS SAYS CONSTITUTION 'NOT DISREGARDED'

FL231920 Bridgetown CANA in English 1842 GMT 23 Mar 84

[By Bertram Gilfillan]

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts-Nevis, March 23 (CANA) -- St Kitts-Nevis Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds today rejected suggestions by an opposition linked newspaper that his government was disregarding the Constitution and elections laws and thereby disenfranchising thousands of young people.

The prime minister at a press conference here termed a report in last weekend's edition of THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN newspaper "a barefaced and mischievous lie."

The paper suggested that the coalition People's Action Movement (PAM) and Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) government was wilfully disobeying the Constitution and elections laws and denying thousands of young people the right to vote.

Dr Simmonds said: "The introduction of the right to vote at 18, is one of this government's proudest achievements." He said it was a move fought for by PAM since 1966.

"The truth of the matter is that a new system of continuous registration is being brought into force, to ensure that every single qualified voter in this country will have the chance to register," he said.

Under the former system, abolished last November, voters could only register on one given day in the year.

"If you did not appear in person on that one day, your name was left out or struck off the list of voters until the following year," the prime minister pointed out.

But he said the continuous system will enable qualified persons to register at their own convenience on any day in the year.

"It is obvious," said Prime Minister Simmonds, "that it will be easier to exercise your constitutuional right to vote under the new system, which becomes operational starting 2nd April this year."

"It is therefore ridiculous to suggest that my government is willfully disobeying the Constitution and elections laws, when it is such common knowledge that it is this government which itself introduced the new constitutional guarantees, and is making it easier and more convenient for qualified persons to register and exercise their right to vote."

Dr Simmonds said it was absurd to suggest that thousands of young people were being denied the right to vote when his government had reduced the voting age to 18.

ST LUCIA

AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON BANANA CROP LOSSES

FL241230 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] St Lucia's agricultural minister says the island is loosing nearly $400,000 a year because of the poor quality of its banana crops. Ira D'Auvergne said producing top quality fruit is the only way to compete for a greater share of Britain's banana market. Yesterday, D'Auvergne blamed the poor quality of St Lucia's bananas on poor storage procedures and ppor field sanitation.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

INCE ON TALKS WITH VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER

FL222314 Bridgetown CANA in English 2049 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 22 (CANA) -- The foreign ministers of Venezuela and Trinidad see the process of elections as holding possible solutions to the current political strife in Central America, according to a communique issued here.

The Central American crisis was among issues Trinidad and Tobago's External Affairs Minister Dr Basis Ince discussed with his Venezuelan counterpart, Dr Isidro Morales Paul, during a recent official visit to Carabas.

"As regards the Central American region, the ministers expressed their wish that the electoral processes which are underway in some of those countries would contribute towards creating a climate favourable for regional detente and for solution of the problems which are occuring in the very countries," the communique on the talks said.

El Salvador, scene of fierce fighting between leftist guerrillas and government forces, votes Sunday to elect a president.

Leftist-ruled Nicaragua, another Central American war zone, has scheduled elections for November, the first since the 1979 ouster of the Somoza dictatorship.

According to the communique, Ince told Morales Paul that Trinidad and Tobago was following "with special interest" the work of the four-nation Contadora Group which is trying to resolve the Central American disputes through discussion.

The group comprises Panama, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela.

Other issues covered in the talks were energy cooperation between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela and the negotiation of a new fisheries agreement.

GILLESPIE MEETING WITH CHAMBERS REPORTED

FL232315 Bridgetown CANA in English 2215 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 23 (CANA) -- United States Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Charles Gillespie held talks here today with Prime Minister George Chambers, official sources said.

No details were given of the discussions but the two were believed to have dealt with Grenada where Gillespie served as head of the U.S. mission after the U.S.-led invasion of the island last October.

Trinidad and Tobago opposed the military intervention by the U.S. and seven Caribbean nations but is providing rehabilitative aid to the island.

GOVERNMENT REJECTS NOMINATION OF U.S. AMBASSADOR

FL231904 Bridgetown CANA in English 1745 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 23 (CANA) -- The Guyana Government has rejected the nomination of an unidentified male diplomat as the new U.S. ambassador here to succeed Gerald Thomas who left last September for a new posting in Kenya, diplomatic sources said.

The move, said to be unprecedented in Guyana's history, is seen as likely to further exacerbate the already sour relations between Washington and Georgetown. An official of the United States Information Service said he could neither confirm nor deny the report and a senior Guyana foreign service official said: "I am not in a position to make a comment now, but we will later."

Thomas, a retired rear-admiral, was the first U.S. political appointee to head the American mission here. Both he and his predecessor, George Roberts, were critical of the Forbes Burnham regime's socialist policies.

The U.S. has criticised alleged human rights violations in Guyana and relations sunk to a low last July when the U.S. blocked a loan from the Inter-American Bank (IDB), using its power of veto which it exercised under the terms of the Fund for Special Operations (FSO). The U.S. said its objections to the loan, which was to be used to fund a giant agricultural scheme east of the capital, were on technical grounds based on the feasibility of the project, but Georgetown charged that the action was political because Washington disliked its socialist policies. The loan was later approved under an IDB financing window that does not allow for a U.S. veto.

Guyana also linked the United States to an alleged coup plot against the Burnham administration, discovered last December in Canada. President Burnham called the eight persons arrested -- seven Guyana-born Canadian citizens and an American -- miscreants and clumsy amateurs. He said they had "established contacts with the present United States Administration" and the plan was to wipe out Guyana's leftist government and the main pro-Moscow opposition and set up a "neofascist regime for the ruthless exploitation of our people and resources for the enrichment of a few greedy bandits."

PAPER CRITICIZES PASSAGE OF LABOR RELATIONS BILL

FL241932 Bridgetown CANA in English 1542 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 24 (CANA) -- The opposition MIRROR newspaper has severely criticised the Forbes Burnham government over the passage by Parliament here last week of a controversial labour relations bill which it described as "a draconian anti-working class measure against workers entitled to increments."

The so-called Labour Amendment Bill, among other things, cancelled wage hikes for public sector workers previously agreed to and confirmed by the Guyana High Court.

The People's Progressive Party (PPP)-backed tabloid said that in the measure, the "government is even reversing a High Court decision handed down in 1981 which was upheld in October 1983 by the Court of Appeal," and the paper described the action as "intolerable", as it holds eminent judges and the judicial process up to ridicule.

The MIRROR said the whole labour movement was challenged and snubbed, and the public sector workers including the traditional civil service "are directly affected."

It wondered how it was that hardly a "whimper is heard from the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the workers watchdog, which should have been barking furiously at the regime from the time it became clear that the government was not going to pay the money due to members of the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Employees (NAACIE).

NAACIE, one of three unions in the sugar industry here, last year took the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) to court, demanding payment of previously agreed wage increases for its members, and won. But the bill reversed the appeal court's October 1983 decision.

BRIEFS

NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR -- Georgetown, Guyana, March 23 (CANA) -- Former Venezuelan ambassador to Guyana, Enrique Peinado Barrios, has been reappointed to the post, succeeding Ambassador Sadio Garravini, who was shot and wounded by an intruder last February 21 and lost his right eye, a Venezuelan Embassy spokesman said here today. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1719 GMT 23 Mar 84 FL]

ECUADOR

GOVERNMENT LIFTS CURFEW IN 2 PROVINCES

PA231505 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The government has ordered the lifting of the curfew imposed in the Provinces of Napo-Pastaza and Esmeraldas. The government and national defense ministries have issued resolutions to this effect, considering that activities are returning to normal in these two provinces, where a strike had been declared. However, some aspects of the emergency law will remain in effect. It was indicated that the measure adopted by the two ministries is aimed at producing a completely normal situation in these two provinces.

Although the curfew has been lifted, the sit-down strike is being continued in the northeastern Province of Napo-Pastaza, according to Mr Carlos Davila Solano, secretary of the strike committee.

[Begin Davila recording] The sit-down strike is being maintained in 70 percent of the province, especially in the towns of Tena, Archidona, Baeza, El Chaco, Nueva Era, and Coca. [end recording]

SURINAME

BROTHER OF EX-PARLIAMENTARIAN INJURED IN ATTACK

FL231132 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The Surinamese who yesterday was seriously injured in an attempt on his life is off the critical list. The 35-year old brother of the former Surinamese member of Parliament, (Salem Somahajo), was shot in his home by unidentified gunmen.

It is assumed that the attackers made a mistake and that the bullets were intended for the former parliamentarian. It is believed that the attackers are supporters of the Bouterse regime.

The members of the Surinamese Liberation Council in Holland meanwhile are being given extra protection.